

Other success stories

Ford Motor Company of Australia

Training

Ford won a National Energy Award in 1993 after a fleet replacement program led to the saving of 800 000 litres of diesel annually. Ford developed a driver-training course that looked at driving techniques to improve fuel efficiency such as gear selection and self-imposed speed limits. On-board computers allow drivers to monitor their own performance and provide information for maintenance.

Cadbury Schweppes

Strategic approach

Cadbury Schweppes won 'energy manager of the year' in 1991. This was 17 years after they started their energy efficiency program by using newsletter articles and special campaigns. At the same time they commenced the continuous monitoring of energy use which led to a number of technical improvements over the years. In 1990 the energy policy was re-evaluated by a committee of 15 people from each area of the factory. Energy policy was then linked to environment policy. A competition for staff members has resulted in many simple housekeeping measures being implemented. Energy used per tonne of product in 1993 was only 72% of that used in 1983.

Cleveland Potash (UK)

Strategic approach

A newly appointed energy manager adopted a strategic approach, consisting of:

- an audit and survey
- seminars for management by consultants
- introduction of an energy monitoring and targeting system
- raising awareness of staff
- training by equipment suppliers
- retro-fitting of variable speed pumps and fans etc

Energy consumption improved by 11% within 18 months

Thorn Lighting (UK)

Quality

Energy was included in a project to improve its processes in pursuit of world class performance. The combined result of many small improvements was a reduction of 20% in energy use per unit of production. Annual savings of about \$100 000 were made for an outlay of \$20 000.

H J Heinz (UK)

Staff motivation

'Energiser' teams of six people were established at each profit centre. A novel feature of the project was that management agreed to return 10% of the savings made to a charity of the employees' choice. This was the real motivation for staff. Ideas involving no cost saved 4% of energy use and a further 4% was identified with paybacks of two years or less.



Rover (UK)

Staff involvement

A site energy team, led by the manufacturing director, drove the energy saving message to all levels of the organisation. A special newsletter was produced which linked energy consumption at work and at home. Suggestions from staff were welcomed. As the ideas were implemented, savings achieved were communicated via on-site TV message displays. In just 6 months the savings target of 8% of total energy cost (\$2 million) was reached. The only direct cost was the cost of the newsletter (\$15 000).

NCI Plastics (Northcote)

Better conditions and improved productivity

Factory lighting was a problem for this plastic moulding company. Lighting levels were low and uneven, colour matching was difficult if not impossible, reading labels was difficult, and lighting did not reach the ceiling making the factory like a cave. The solution was to replace the existing mercury vapour lights with metal halide and provide a more efficient fitting. Controllers were also fitted. The result was highly improved working conditions leading not only to greater productivity, but also a reduction in electricity costs. The improvements have a payback of 4.3 years.

Kodak Australasia (Coburg)

Improved conditions

A plastic and metal fabrication plant had lighting levels half those which were required. In addition the old fittings were causing maintenance problems. Ballasts were replaced, tri-phosphor tubes were used and the fittings were cleaned and replaced. These actions raised the illumination levels by 128% whilst lowering electricity use by 30%. The whole project cost \$21 000 with a payback of 3.8 years, plus improved working conditions.

Westpac Bank

Staff involvement, tariffs and equipment purchase

Westpac established an Energy Unit in 1993 to reduce their \$24 million expenditure on energy. Staff awareness was a key part of the program. Each branch was sent a Powerpac of information containing posters, stickers and a video, as well as a brief for managers. The Energy Unit of four staff reached a stage of self-sufficiency in two years. The effort has saved the bank \$10.5 million for an outlay of \$4 million.

Castlemaine Perkins

Housekeeping

The brewers of 'XXXX' are saving \$31 600 per year (3% of its electricity use) by implementing small changes to the compressor controls within the brewery. The refrigeration plant supplies brine to various parts of the brewery to keep beer chilled during various stages of production. Chilling loads vary considerably, requiring different combinations of compressors to operate. The control programs were simply adjusted to eliminate inefficient practices. No new hardware was involved.



Blue Circle Southern Cement

Alternative Fuel

Blue Circle's plant at Waurin Ponds adopted a plan to cut its fuel costs in half. One of the measures examined was the use of waste products (tyres and waste oils). Considerable testing was required to ensure that the burning of these fuels would meet EPA emission levels. Today, about 20% of the plant's energy comes from tyres and about 20% from engine oils, lubricants and ship oils. Environmental benefits are also achieved as the waste products are not used for land fill or incineration.

Leading Textiles Pty Ltd

Housekeeping

The company is saving approximately 20% of the energy used for dyeing by simply insulating the dyeing vessels. This practice is common in Europe and Asia but is seldom used in Australia. Australian mills have been reluctant to insulate due to concerns regarding the impact of chemicals and water on insulation, and the difficulty involved in insulating the vessels. Leading Textiles has shown that ingenuity and practicality will overcome these barriers. The payback for the insulation was 4 months.

Calum Textile Group Pty Ltd

Reduced energy, improved quality

A no cost adjustment to a textile drier is returning \$14 000 per year to Calum—a 25% reduction in energy consumption. Air leaves the drier more slowly, absorbs more moisture, and decreases the variability of airflow through the drier. This more carefully controlled drying has improved product quality and customer satisfaction.

Australian Dyeing Company

Energy efficiency, productivity and market improvements

The recession in the early 1990s caused the company to look at alternative production processes in order to be more cost effective. It introduced the 'cold pad batch dyeing process' that had benefits in colour brightness, appearance, wet fastness and feel. The process also reduced gas consumption by 48%, electricity by 33% and water by 45%. Market share has increased by 25%.

