

Glebe Point YHA, Sydney

The Glebe Point YHA has adopted a green approach since 1998 and is committed to reducing its power consumption and took advantage of the Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program to better understand its use of electricity and make changes to their operations.

Annual Financial savings equates to \$960

The vision

Glebe Point understood that its customers value the hostel's 14 year commitment to being green and aspire to more than live up to this commitment.

Thanks to the management's commitment to achieving these aims, Glebe Point YHA has been able to save 7457kW hours of electricity. Their success has led to other YHA hostels adopting energy initiatives themselves.

The business

Established in 1988, Glebe Point YHA is a youth hostel popular among international visitors and the working holiday makers. It is located in Glebe which is Sydney's Bohemian leafy inner city area, known for its cafes and restaurants. It retains a village atmosphere and is vibrant with students and artists alike.

The Glebe Point YHA facilities include a TV and games room, internet, rooftop BBQ area with city views, jobs and car sales noticeboard and tour desk. The hostel employs more than 5 full-time staff.

Glebe Point YHA understands the importance of minimising energy usage.

The challenges

Costs

Similar to many other small businesses, this accommodation provider faces rising electricity prices and is keen to reduce input costs.

Energy efficiency achievements

Energy-efficient fittings

The Glebe Point YHA has achieved an annual energy savings through the replacement of old fittings with new energy efficient equivalents.

Initiatives:

- Replacement of rooftop para floods with CFL flood lights.
- Replacement of 50W down lights with 35W IRC halogen down lights.
- Installation of fluorescent T5 conversion kits in corridor, telephone room and lower floor lighting.

How to do it: efficient laundry operations

If you wish to reduce your business' energy costs by implementing gas dryers into your laundry, it is important to research your options. This will ensure you buy the product that is right for you.

Achievements in change management

Energy efficient behaviour

Glebe Point YHA recognizes the importance of involving staff in their efficiency efforts and has engaged with them to help them achieve their targets.

Initiatives

- Staff knowledge of energy efficiency was improved through Action Plan involvement.
- The staff members were encouraged to take up energy efficiency options and efficient light globes into their homes.

How to do it: staff engagement

It is important to gain staff involvement in energy-efficiency initiatives in order to achieve real cost savings. This involvement could be achieved through holding staff competitions to see who can reduce their energy usage the most. Informing staff members at regular team meeting is another method to have staff involvement.

Promoting energy efficiency

Glebe Point YHA is proud of their achievements in energy efficiency and uses various avenues to promote their initiatives to guests and other YHA hostels.

Initiatives

- Results from the assessment are communicated to guests of the hostel through reception signage.
- Details of the assessment have been communicated to all YHA hostels through the YHA intranet.

How to do it: promoting energy efficiency

You can easily promote your energy efficiency efforts through various avenues including:

- giving a tour of your energy-efficiency initiatives to guests and neighbourhood.
- praising your staff in their efforts to reduce energy consumption in your business, offer rewards.
- giving guests a memento to share with their friends to show their contribution to energy saving at the business.

The future

Glebe Point YHA plans to continue to improve its energy-efficiency initiatives to reduce their energy consumption. This includes plans to install a solar hot water system.

Glebe Point YHA also plans to engage its staff and guests in coming up with new ideas and achieving the initiatives suggested.