

UnitingCare Community

Organisation Overview

Location: Fortitude Valley, Queensland

Size: over 2000 staff across the organisation

Building style: various

Energy use: heating & cooling, computer servers, lighting

UnitingCare Community is a leading provider of client-focused care and community services in Queensland. UnitingCare Community is aided by over 2000 staff and approximately 6000 volunteers who help support our community service programs and Lifeline Shops across metropolitan, rural and regional Queensland.

Through the Environmental Sustainability project UnitingCare Community has embarked on a range of initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and organisational costs across 297 properties. As part of these initiatives, energy audits have been conducted on various sites throughout the State including the Gipps Street State Office. Energy audits have helped UnitingCare Community to gain an understanding of current energy consumption and opportunities to improve energy efficiency.

Top areas for savings

UnitingCare Community's Sustainability Advisory Group (goGreen Team) plays a pivotal role in the implementation of environmental sustainability initiatives across the organisation. The team conducted a survey to gain a better understanding of the things that staff were doing to be more sustainable. The survey also asked staff what areas the organisation needed to improve on and how it can move towards a more sustainable future.

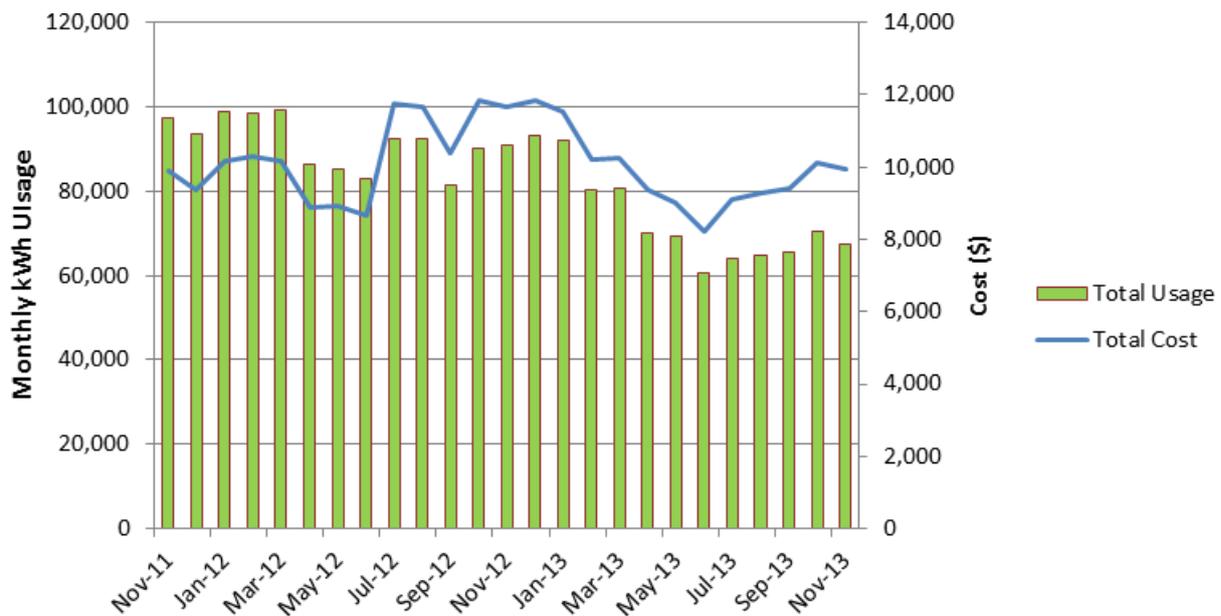
Of the 152 responses received, staff offered 128 suggestions to help reduce UnitingCare Community's impact on the environment. The survey found that the most significant environmental challenges for UnitingCare Community, were energy efficiency, waste management, purchasing and procurement. The goGreen Team then focused on energy efficiency as one of the first initiatives to implement across UnitingCare Community.

The Gipps Street site consumed high amounts of electricity relative to its floor area (525kWh/m²). The largest energy consumer on site was heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC, 51% of total site usage). Other major energy uses were the computer server room (23%), lighting (15%) followed by general appliances and water heating (11%).

Some of the energy efficiency opportunities undertaken



Energy Usage/Cost, Gipps Street



Opportunities found in the audit

Implementation of the recommendations from the Gipps Street Energy Audit has seen reductions in energy consumption of 196, 817KWh over 12 months, and cost savings of \$26,191. Due to the uncertainty of the building’s future a range of initiatives were implemented with no capital cost of equipment. These initiatives included:

- Reducing the HVAC operating system from 24 hours a day 7 days a week (1st level only) to operating hours of (7.00am – 6.00 pm Mon-Fri).
- De-lamping of the building with 92 (T8) florescent tubes removed.
- Installation of timers on all zip boilers within the building.
- Upgrading the old vending machine to a new energy efficient model.
- Participating in Ergon Energy’s Mr Switch energy efficient competition which encouraged staff members to switch off electrical appliances when not in use.
- Developed an energy saving tips fact sheet for distribution to all staff.