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Charity No. 1159816

Energy Advice Drop In
The Wellbeing Centre
Church Stretton
Thursday's 10.00 – 12.00



INFORMATION SHEET No. 7 DATE OF ISSUE

UPDATED March 2023

Small Business Energy Saving Advice

- Ask about routines eg if food is produced on the premises are ovens etc. only switched on when required or are they fired up as soon as the operator arrives in the morning?
- Are all food cabinets left running all the time, including empty ones?
- Are all lights turned on when the operator arrives even if they are the only person there for a while?
- Are lighting displays fitted with CFC's – many use halogen GU10's – could LED alternatives be used? Check if they are 12 volt as these are not so easy to change as the transformer may not cope with the reduced load.
- Is it necessary to have all display lighting on all the time?
- Are fluorescent fittings still using T12 tubes. T5's (very small diameter) use far less energy though they may need a small adaptor to fit older fittings. T7's should fit without adaptors. Low energy LED strip lighting is even more energy efficient and very long lasting?
- Are lighting displays on a time clock? – we don't get many window shoppers late at night in the Strettons. Does the time clock get altered as the seasons change? Is security lighting also on a time clock?
- Is the letter box draft proofed?
- Do lights get left on in store rooms?
- We have a few individual energy meters –they might be useful to show just how much energy several old freezers etc. are using. Have Smart meters been fitted? Easier to monitor consumption.
- Are computers or other equipment left on standby unnecessarily?
- What about time clocks for heating – are they set to maximum efficiency? They could perhaps go off 20 minutes before closing time.
- Are entrance doors left open during the heating season?
- Remember commercial premises get charged higher energy rates. Who pays the bills? Might be worth exploring if a switch will be beneficial.
- Improved insulation and glazing is often desirable but in many instances difficult to advise on – who owns the building etc.
- With B & B's how often are sheets changed? Some Tourist Star ratings require

sheets to be changed several times a week even if the room occupancy doesn't change – we wouldn't do that at home. Equally the Tourist Board may still ask that towels be tumbled rather than fresh air dried “to make them fluffy”. Perhaps B & B owners need to ask guests their “green preferences”?

- Some B & B owners are making a point of their “green credentials”. This is a useful a marketing strategy – tourists may prefer staying in “green” accommodation and the owner could also save money.
- Transport delivery vehicles – electric vehicles should be considered when changing vehicles.
- What recycling opportunities are there for the business?
- A periodic walk-round visual audit is a good idea. Energy saving actions encouraged can get forgotten.
- Lastly just an idea but could staff be encouraged to take on responsibility for coming up with energy saving ideas for the business – perhaps a small incentive scheme.
- Has any thought been given to applying for Business Energy Saving Grants? They do sometimes come up.
- Try <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/business/>

Caution - Please Read this:

Our Advice Note has been carefully prepared and is, as far as we know, accurate at the date of publication. However, things change very fast in the world of technology and in government schemes. Sometimes parts of Advice Notes become outdated and may not offer best advice very soon after publication. We do our best to keep them up to date with the limited resources we have. Furthermore, our advice may not be appropriate for your particular circumstances. We advise that you get advice from a relevant expert before making changes. We may be able to offer further advice or make suggestions on who to contact if you get in touch with us. We are not technical experts but have many years of offering common sense advice and we recommend you should not rely on our Advice Note alone for making decisions. The national advice centre Energy Savings Trust is a good source of information.

See <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>