



Top 10 'Low to No Cost' Energy Efficiency Tips

1. Reducing the set point temperature by just 1°C could save up to 8% on energy consumption for heating, depending on the outdoor climate and current efficiency of your building.
2. Review and optimise BMS or control panels, ensure on/off times are appropriate for your buildings operation. Consider turning heating off 1 hour before closure as your building should retain heat for a time and remember to make changes in line with daylight savings. Installing external weather compensation sensors has also been shown to yield considerable savings when compared to traditional indoor thermostats.
3. A room will heat up at the same rate whether the thermostat is set to 20°C or 25°C. If the thermostat is set above the temperature required, energy will be wasted once that temperature is achieved.
4. Maintain pipework and hot water tank insulation in plantrooms to improve efficiency. If your plantroom feels too warm then it is likely you should improve the insulation. An uninsulated valve or flange can lose the heat equivalent to 1m of uninsulated pipework.
5. Clean fans, filters and air ducts in air handling systems. This could yield up to 60% improvement in efficiency for very poorly maintained systems.
6. Check timeclocks for external lighting. Do they fit with current daylight hours? Install motion sensors in low traffic areas where lights are often left on. Toilets & store rooms for example. As always, LED lighting alternatives should be the only consideration when replacing old lighting systems.
7. Draught proofing doors and re-sealing windows to avoid unnecessary loss of heat during winter months.
8. Don't forget basic building maintenance. A damp building is harder (and more expensive) to heat than a dry building. Check that roofs, walls, windows, doors, gutters, drainpipes and drains are all in good condition. Fix leaks and blockages and remove overgrown vegetation from around buildings to



prevent water getting into buildings. This will save on repair costs in the long run too.

9. Involving staff in the process via an energy awareness campaign will help people make savings both at work and at home. With more staff now working from home, having consistent team days in the office and utilising shared work spaces will decrease unnecessary energy loads. Other examples include education on building controls, reduced use of stand-alone electric heaters and clear shut down procedures.

10. Install and utilise existing metering and monitoring in buildings or take regular meter readings to assess performance. Consider integrating energy monitoring into BMS controls – ensure roles and responsibilities are in place to utilise performance data. You cannot manage what is not measured.

Find out more about how the Welsh Government Energy Service can help your community enterprise or public sector organisation:

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