

“ We would like to install solar power at our Gallery when we can secure funding to do so, but in the meantime, we have elected to buy our power from a renewable power source. ”



Appliance of science

Did you know?

A photocopier left on ‘standby’ overnight wastes enough energy to make 30 cups of tea.

You can be more efficient by reducing the resources used, such as energy, water and other raw materials. Energy efficient operation is not just a good idea for big business. No matter the size of your museum or gallery you can significantly change the total amount of energy consumed by your organisation. From the way in which you operate, the appliances you choose and the way you use them, to the way you manage waste.

The price of electricity is always changing. Making a reduction in the amount of energy required by becoming more efficient is the best way to insulate your organisation from rising prices. Energy generation on-site, using renewable sources like solar or wind power, helps to reduce the amount of energy required for normal operations.

Buying appliances

When you are buying a new appliance, look at the energy star rating system (visit the Energy Star website www.energystar.gov for more information), which will help you to compare the energy consumption of similar product models. Models with lower energy consumption will cost less to operate over their whole life. Extend this careful consideration to the procurement of fridges, washing machines, kettles and IT equipment. A list of the most efficient products currently available can be found at the Energy Star website. It is also worth looking at exactly how many KiloWatt Hours (KWh) are consumed, because, for instance, upright and chest freezers have different scales and are not easy to compare using the energy star system.

Water heating

By reducing the energy needed for certain functions, you can make additional savings. Installing an efficient hot water heater could save on regular energy consumption. Solar thermal water systems use the sun to heat and store water in an insulated tank for later use. Once this stored water has been used, solar systems require gas or electricity to create more hot water. Installing a heat pump water heater, which use electricity to heat water in a very efficient way, is another way to save energy. They are of comparable energy efficiency to solar thermal systems and can be easier to install.

Waste

Some museums and galleries also have catering operations on site, which create a lot of compostable food waste on a regular basis. But even smaller work places generate waste from packed lunches and takeaway meals. Avoid introducing waste into the system where possible. It's best if resources are used more efficiently and returned safely to productive use, for example through reuse and recycling. Practical everyday solutions such as partnering with an oil recycler if you have a deep fat fryer in the kitchen; introducing a composting system for staff and volunteers for lunchtime food scraps; recycling compost created into a herb bed and reusing water on garden beds if possible, all contribute to energy efficiency within your organisation.

Quick wins

- Turn off power
- Buy renewable power
- Install timers
- Compost
- Recycle
- Don't leave equipment in standby mode

Long term wins

- Install renewable power on site
- Upgrade to energy efficient models
- Consider energy supply chain
- Install Solar Hot Water
- Service regularly for efficiency
- Create no-waste culture in-house

More information

For further information on the Energy Efficiency Information Resources for Public Museums and Gallery sector project visit our website at www.clevercustodians.com.au or load the resource provided on the USB Drive.