



ENERGY COST SAVING FACT SHEET FOR HOSPITALITY



Energy is by far the biggest utility cost for Ireland's hospitality businesses. A regular review of energy costs and usage will result in significant savings for your business. Energy savings can be achieved through minimising what you pay for your energy supplies but, more importantly, by reducing the amount you use. These reductions will not only improve the competitiveness of your business but also help reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, which are responsible for climate change.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO SAVE COSTS



Shop around for the best energy price

Always review your energy supply contracts each year. New customers usually get the best prices and these will often increase (up to 25%) at the end of contract without notification.



Check your bills

Check bills and make sure you are not paying penalties for exceeding your Maximum Import Capacity (MIC - measured in kVA on your bills) and/or having a poor power factor. If you are, both of these can be rectified in most cases.



Save in your sleep!

Where possible use nightsaver electricity (e.g. timers for laundry). This costs 50% less than day rate. During the summer, night rates apply from midnight to 9AM and in winter it is from 11PM – 8AM.

Service your boiler



A well serviced boiler maintains efficiency and can save up to 5% of heating costs.

Staff training



Train staff to turn off/down equipment when not in use - as a rule of thumb, good staff awareness and training can reduce costs by 10%.

Identify key energy users & control them

These could include your boiler, lighting, combi oven, dishwasher, air conditioning and pumps.

Turn them off:

Turn off kitchen equipment such as the salamander and gas rings between orders and reduce operating costs



Turn them down:

Reducing room temperatures by 1°C will cut up to 8% off your heating costs.



Turn them in:

Replacing old equipment such as dishwashers with newer A+ rated appliances will save you money in the long run.



Benchmark energy consumption

Monitor your energy consumption against business activity and compare with the hospitality energy benchmarks for Ireland. Hotels typically measure energy consumption against area, with restaurants measuring energy against covers. When calculating benchmarks include electricity and all other energy sources.

Type	Energy Benchmark
Hotel	360 kWh / m ² / annum
Restaurant	8 kWh / cover



Get a Resource Efficiency score for your company and a tailored Action Plan with TREE, our [online assessment tool](#).



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MORE ACTIONS TO SAVE COSTS

Install LED lighting

Replacing old-style bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs can reduce the lighting portion of your energy bill by as much as 75%. Payback periods for LED lighting installation are normally less than 2 years.



Many Irish hotels and restaurants have switched to LEDs. A Cork hotel saved €34,900 by installing LEDs in public areas with a payback of 1.1 years.



Consider heat exchange

Harness waste heat from sources such as laundry rooms or kitchens and feed into the existing hot water system (or used directly if sufficiently hot).

A County Cork restaurant reduced their oil bill by €6,000 annually by installing a heat exchanger on their extraction fan to preheat water.



Better energy controls

Appropriate heating and cooling controls can significantly reduce space heating and cooling costs. Sensor controls can be used to turn off lights and equipment when not required.

A Dublin hotel saved €12,000 / annum by installing sensors on water features in their swimming pool.

Replace old inefficient equipment

A Limerick hotel replaced their old dishwasher with a new state-of-the-art dishwasher. They cut running costs which included electricity, chemicals and labour by €50,000 per annum. The new dishwasher paid for itself in 2.2 years.



Go renewable!

Generate your own renewable energy. Renewable micro generation systems such as solar PV and wind are good for business. Renewable electricity is cheaper in the long-term, won't incur any carbon tax, minimises energy price increases and reduces your carbon footprint.



Financial support. Investing in expensive energy infrastructure can be aided by a number of measures

- **Grants** - SEAI provides a number of business grants that have helped organisations all over Ireland make significant savings. These include the Energy Efficiency Obligation scheme (EEOS) and the Accelerated Capital Allowance (ACA).
For more visit: www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/business-grants-and-supports/
- **Pay as you save** - suppliers now offer lighting and energy as a service where they fund the installation of lighting, heating and microgeneration and the business pays as they use the service.
- **Green Loans** - low interest loans are now offered by banks and investors.



Useful resources



- [National Waste Prevention Programme](#)
- [SEAI - Online Energy Training](#)
- [Irish Hotels Federation Sustainability Initiative](#)

This fact sheet was produced by:

