

HOMART PHARMACEUTICALS



Homart Pharmaceuticals

Outlaying more up front Better long- term solutions

Business sustainability

Jeffrey Yei, Operations Manager for Homart Pharmaceuticals (www.homart.com.au) saw the Energy Efficiency for Small Business program as a great initiative to learn more about the energy consumption in his business and to explore any opportunities to enhance efficiencies.

Keeping stock below 30 degrees Celcius presented an ongoing challenge and was addressed by using air conditioning in the summer months before the Program had commenced.

The majority of Homart's energy usage was seen to derive from its lighting. The energy

assessment revealed a number of areas in which Homart could reduce its energy usage.

The energy assessment uncovered a wide range of energy saving initiatives.

Recommendations included installing split lighting circuits, digital timers for extractor fans in the kitchen and toilet, infra-red sensors in low traffic areas and toilets, replacement of 50W bulbs with halogen down lights, installation of automatic timers on hot water systems, installation of roof ventillators in warehouses, applying heat reflective paint, installing batt insulation in the ceiling, and installing a commercial air/heat extractor unit. The estimated

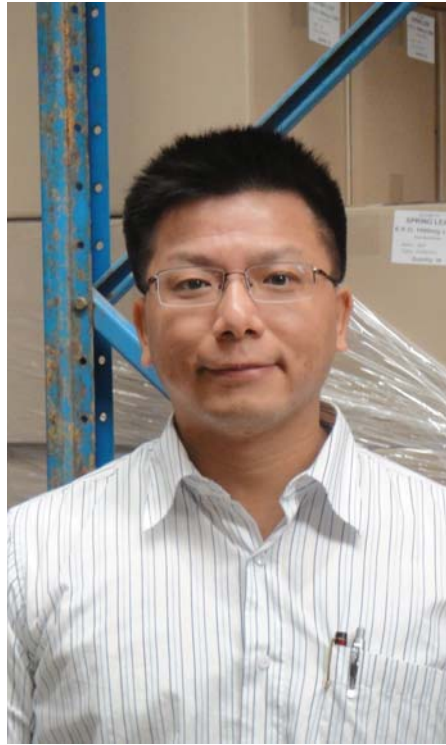
total cost of these suggested changes was \$23,066. It was also estimated that the company would reap potential savings of \$3,246 per year.

Outcomes

Homart is in the process of implementing a broad range of recommendations, having already installed the roof ventilators and heat reflective paint. The program rebate will provide up to 50% of the investment (up to \$10,000) for both properties.

As a result of the implemented actions to date and those left on the list, it is estimated that Homart will save about \$3,240 and over 17 tonnes of CO₂-e per year. The total investment after rebate will pay for itself in energy savings over approximately 4.2 years.

The changes already implemented have significantly reduced air conditioning loads and enabled stock to be kept within the desired temperature range. Homart had planned to install more air conditioning to meet the growing storage loads, but the heat reflective paint as an alternative provided a cost-effective insulation solution, which despite costing more up front, operationally over time will cost less than more air conditioning.



“The program’s rebate was able to provide that extra incentive to pay more up front for a better long term solution”

Jeffrey Yei

Lessons learned

From the energy assessment, Jeffrey Yei learned that a small business can save more money in the long term by investing more in sustainable energy up front. This is something that he intends to apply to his business in other ways.

Another lesson Jeffrey took from the process was that investing in energy efficiency is better use of surplus money than money that earns low interest in the bank.

Future actions

Jeffrey Yei will intend to continue to look for more opportunities to be sustainable. This is likely to include installing solar panels on the roof some time in the near future.

Business background

Established in Australia in 1992, Homart specialises in manufacturing and marketing high quality Australian health supplements. These range from fish oil capsules and vitamins, to unique products such as colostrum tablets, marine collagen capsules, eucalyptus propolis toothpaste, and emu oil products.

Homart also does contract manufacturing for a diverse customer base, helping clients with research and development, licensing, exporting and distribution. Homart operates from two properties in Silverwater combining offices, warehouse and manufacturing facilities.