

PHANG LEGAL



Phang Legal business complex

Law firm Small but proactive and influential

Business sustainability

For business owner of Phang Legal (www.phanglegal.com.au) Ern Phang, sustainability is an important value. Both at home and at work, Ern takes seriously the challenge of minimising his impact on the environment. So choosing to get involved in the Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program was what he described as a “no-brainer”.

Before undertaking the energy assessment, Ern had taken positive steps to minimise his electricity use, such as ensuring all computers are shut down at night, lights are switched off in all unoccupied areas and by encouraging his staff to do the same.

The energy assessment conducted at the organisation revealed that the business spends about \$1,600 per year on electricity, which emits approximately 8 tonnes of CO₂-e.

A number of recommendations were made from the energy assessment. These included splitting lighting circuits into multiple switches, installing timers on the hot water system, replacing the old air conditioner with a 5-star model, installing lighting sensors, and replacing incandescent lights globes with compact fluorescent globes.

As well as providing these technical suggestions, staff were encouraged to become engaged

with the process, including switching their computers off at the powerpoint and turning off lights in unoccupied areas.

The estimated cost of implementing these initiatives was \$3,796. The assessment also established that there were potential savings to be made of about \$454.65 per year.

Outcomes

As a result of the implemented actions, Phang Legal will save about \$454 and 3 tonnes of CO₂-e per year. The total investment after rebate will pay for itself in energy savings over approximately 4 years.

Following the energy assessment, Phang Legal took the initiative to obtain quotes from trades people to implement the recommended initiatives.

Lessons learned

Ern Phang has learned that sustainability is a journey. He has realised that it is important to have monitoring systems in place to be more aware of the levels of inputs and outputs of the business. Then, decisions can be made regarding whether a return on investment is likely to be achieved if systems are changed.

For Ern Phang, the process has exposed specific things that he can focus on in his business. He now has a good grasp of the company's energy use.



“Getting involved in the energy efficiency program was a no-brainer.”

Ern Phang, Owner

Future actions

Ern Phang intends to continue to monitor his company's energy consumption. He wants to continue to increase his knowledge of opportunities for the business to reduce its energy use and to continue to challenge himself about the effectiveness of the systems in place in his office and whether things can be done differently.

The longer term plan is to create an internal culture of environmental sustainability within his organisation.

Phang Legal wants to start to bring its clients, business neighbours and other stakeholders on board as they continue along the sustainability journey.

Business background

Phang Legal is a small law firm based in the Parramatta CBD. There are three full time staff and one part time employee. The organisation provides professional legal services in a wide range of areas focusing on property law and conveyancing, commercial transactions, corporate compliance, small claims litigation, estates and elders law.

Phang Legal's contribution to the community includes legal aid, pro-bono and church work.