

Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program Case Study

Hardware Products

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Hardware Products Pty Ltd has a long history in engineering particularly in sheet metal and specialised fabrication of products to customer specification. With origins going back to 1933, it was the original maker of stainless steel electric "coppers" or wash boilers.

The Hardware Products of today use cutting edge manufacturing methods such as Cad Cam and a strong belief that manufacturing in Australia only has a future where investment in the latest technology is embraced and used to its full extent.

Hardware Products delivers engineered manufacturing from concept and design to finished product assembly.

"Hardware Products has a long history as a company with a can-do attitude. We plan to be there long into the future."

Steve Alexander - Managing Director

Industry

Sheet-metal fabrication & design services

Sustainability Drivers

For Managing Director Steve Alexander, increasing efficiencies across the business is a way to enhance competitiveness. The opportunity to be a part of the Energy Efficiency for Small Business Program was readily taken up.

Assessing Energy Usage

The energy efficiency assessment conducted at Hardware Products revealed that the business spends over \$25,000 per year on electricity which emits approximately 138 tonnes of CO₂^{-e} per year.

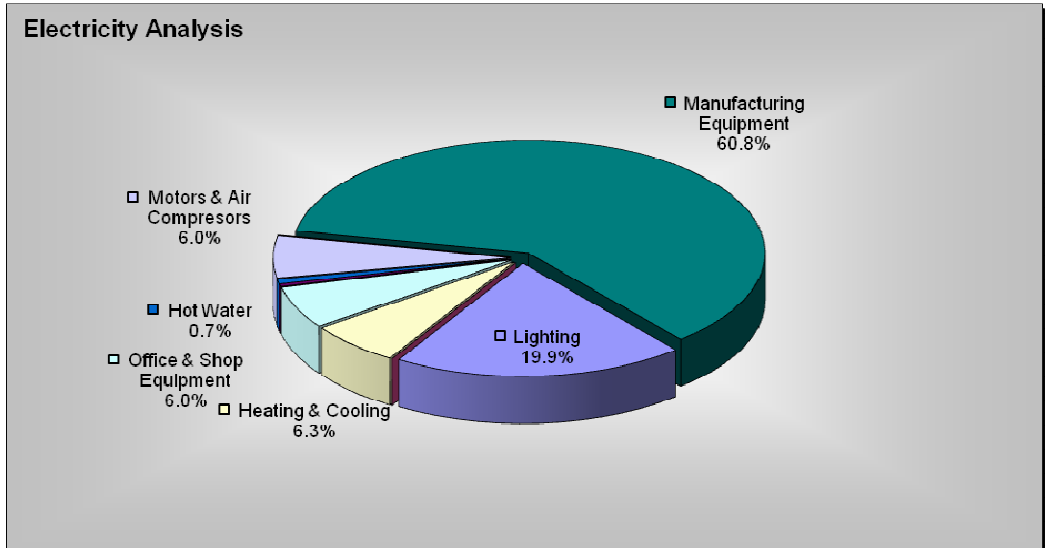


Figure 1: Energy profile for Hardware Products

The largest consumer of electricity was the manufacturing equipment such as the laser and chiller, mills, lathes, presses, welders and benders.

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Action Plan Recommendations

The energy efficiency assessment revealed some good potential saving for heating and cooling and lighting in the workshop.

Description	Estimated Cost	Potential Savings pa
Install Skylight Roofing in workshop (100 sqm)	\$8,147	\$950.60
Install Foil Insulation - above office ceiling (250 sqm)	\$3,700	\$375.45
	\$11,847	\$1,326.05

Implementing the Recommendations

Both of the recommendations were implemented at an approximate cost of \$11,500. Hardware Products will receive \$4750 in rebates, bringing the cost down to \$6750.

Results & Achievements

As a result of the implemented actions, Hardware Products will save around \$1320 and over 7 tonnes of CO₂ e per year. The total investment after rebate will pay for itself in energy savings over approximately 5 years.



Managing Director Steve Alexander was pleased with outcomes from the program and recommended it to other business owners - *“the clear roofing has provided excellent lighting to the work areas , so we can save electricity on the high bay lights - I also anticipate a positive effect on the both the quality of work and the safety. Together with a cooler office from the insulation installed, the work-place has become a better place to be in. I certainly recommend the program to other small businesses”.*

Figure 2: New skylight roofing in the workshop