



Green Music Australia Info Sheet

Venues - Reducing Emissions

As we already know, most of a venue's energy is consumed through heating, cooling, ventilation and lighting. Many venues were built 10 or more years ago and the energy efficiency technology has rapidly improved over the past decade or so.

Energy efficiency gains are probably the most cost effective way to reduce your carbon footprint because most improvement opportunities will either cost you nothing or can be paid back in a short space of time.

Let's look at the cost nothing options first. This category of savings usually involves small changes to the way we manage energy rather than relying on technological solutions.

- In warmer months set your air conditioning units 1 to 2 degrees higher than normal. Such a small adjustment will not affect the venue's overall amenity and can significantly reduce your consumption of energy;
- Conversely in cooler months, set the air conditioning thermostat 1 to 2 degrees lower.
- Install temperature sensors in the auditorium to determine ideal heating/cooling requirements based on audience numbers.
- Depending on the type of venue you operate, there may be opportunities to turn off such energy sapping equipment such as cold rooms, refrigerators, boilers, hot water systems and ice making machines. This option will likely apply to large venues who are not trading every day or every week, however if these measures can be implemented from time to time, the savings can be enormous.
- While on the subject of refrigerators, have a look at the thermostat to determine the current operating temperature. If the fridge is running below 4 degrees Celsius you're wasting energy and money. Set all fridges to 4 degrees.
- If it is possible, check out how much space is around your fridges. If the ventilation of a fridge is blocked or limited by being positioned too close to a wall or ceiling then your fridge is going to have to work that much harder to efficiently exchange hot air for cold air. If you can, simply move your fridges a few more centimetres off the wall.
- If you have a venue that has windows (particularly western facing windows) get into a habit of closing blinds or curtains to reduce the sun's ability to heat the interior of the building (this will result in you not having to crank up the air conditioning unit to cool the space to a more comfortable level when in use).
- Switch off production lighting when not in use (i.e. between sound check and the actual gig).



Once you have exhausted those changes that cost you absolutely nothing, check out the following possibilities. While they usually incur a cost, the return on investment can be swift and significant:

- Choose energy efficient bulbs for all areas of the venue where possible (i.e. LED lights which are incredibly energy efficient);
- Check and replace degraded seals around fridge doors and cold rooms;
- Insulate walls and ceilings to reduce heating and cooling costs;
- Make your venue gap free - plug up all gaps around doors, windows and loading bays (this will help you minimise noise emissions as well);
- Install timers for boilers and fridges (do you really need to keep drinks at 4 degrees Celsius between 3.00am and 9.00am?);
- Purchase a percentage of your energy needs in the form of Australian Accredited GreenPower - this step can make a massive difference in reducing your overall carbon footprint;
- Install energy efficient fans to help circulate air;
- Plant trees around the venue to shade the building and reduce heating/cooling costs;
- Automate your lighting control system - the light that uses the least energy is the one that is switched off;

Install an energy smart meter so you can see what the actual "real time" cost of your energy draw actual is. Studies have proven that knowing what the real time costs of your energy are tend to lead organisations to make smarter energy management decisions (because they are working with better knowledge, i.e. the actual cost of running the venue at different times and with different configurations).