

We know the 'why', but what is your 'why NOT'?

This issue of *Business Matters* is based around 'what is your why?' which is interesting because it naturally raises the question of 'what is your why not?'

When you ask, "Why would I want to reduce my energy costs?" the answer is clear. However, when you ask, "Why haven't I looked at reducing my energy costs?" the answer is not so simple.

Whenever I talk to someone about reducing their electricity consumption, the major road block to putting some energy efficiency measures in place seems to be a perception it will be a high cost solution, or that there is no one in the business who has the knowledge to affect change.

In reality neither is needed to make some very quick changes and start saving. Firstly, appoint an Energy Champion within your organisation and have them secure the data you need to make decisions. If you have a smart meter (your retailer will be able to tell you if you do or not),

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your Energy Champion can ask the retailer for the consumption history. If a smart meter is not in place, your Energy Champion can compile a data capturing form similar to your stocktake form and identify all appliances, lights or machinery and when they are turned on and off (be sure to include any settings in the data). Record the meter readings at each interval and you have the start of a very good database to assist you reduce your costs.

Once your Energy Champion has brought you the data, you should be able to identify what energy is costing you and where you can initiate change to reduce the costs. Armed with the available information you can then move to consider whether there are more than operational adjustments needed to further increase your profits through a reduction in energy costs.

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Contact Matthew Blundell on **5437 8188** matt@energyresources.com.au

www.energyresources.com.au

