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Don't be left in the dark

Ideas to save energy and cut fuel bills

There is more and more energy legislation that will affect businesses in 2009. There is also an increase in energy saving products for homeowners. So where does that leave home businesses?

According to the Carbon Trust, you can save up to 20% on your energy bills by managing energy successfully. Cavendish Engineers and Electrica UK Ltd have 15 years experience in providing low carbon solutions to businesses large and small.

- Are your thermostats working and set at the lowest comfortable temperature? Reducing the temperature by just 1°C can save 8%.
Are there any cold draughts from windows and doors?
Are your computers still on?
Are monitors switched off when not in use, such as during lunch breaks? - turning lights and equipment can save around 15% of energy costs.
Are windows and doors open when heating or air conditioning is on?
Are you still using traditional tungsten light bulbs? Although T5fluorescent lamps may be more expensive to purchase the high output outweighs the cost of standard lamps. New lighting systems can also reduce your energy usage by up to 40%.
Are lights switched off if there's sufficient daylight or rooms not in use? Systems such as PIR (Passive Infra Red) sensors works on a occupancy sensor and together with daylight dimming can be a great saving to an office environment.

Recent air conditioning units provide both heating and cooling and in most cases can be more efficient to run than a boiler. However, if you have an air conditioning unit that carries over 2.5kg of gas make sure you are covered for the F Gas Regulations.

Even if you use your home as a business premises you will still need to have your electrical items PAT tested. Having your electrical equipment tested is vital to you and your employees safety. Faulty equipment could start a fire. To avoid doubt have your appliances PAT tested every six months. Any new installations should also be tested by a competent qualified electrician.

There are loans, grants and claimable schemes from the ECA and the carbon trust for low energy products installed. Visit www.carbontrust.co.uk/loans and www.eca.gov.uk for more details.

Cavendish Engineers and Electrica UK Ltd have free fact sheets and DVDs on subjects such as; How to save energy in your building, Electrical Saving Top Tips for the small business, Electrical legislation, Chiller Inspections, Energy Assessors, Energy Building Performance Directive, and F Gas Legislation.

If you would any of the above fact sheets, DVDs or would just like some advice please don't hesitate to contact our group switch board on 0207 3757145

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