

You need to keep an eye on your business in the same way you do when it comes to energy use at home. It's not just good for the environment, it can make a big financial difference too. Ruairé Glacklin, Head of Net Zero and Energy Reporting at Utility Aid, gives us his top tips for Village Halls looking to save money and be greener.

1. Create the culture

If you decide to cut energy consumption, make sure everyone is on board. Hold meetings to brainstorm ideas and consider creating an energy champion. Keep communicating about the differences you are making with all involved within your village hall - financially and environmentally.

2. Put an AMR to your Christmas list

An Automated Meter Reading device lets you review consumption in both operational and non-operational times. This ability to understand usage patterns will help you make better decisions on saving money.

3. Pick your energy firm wisely

Check you are getting value for money and your tariff has dual rates - it may be prudent to carry out certain tasks during off-peak times.

4. Beware of the ghost of energy past

Phantom energy is used by equipment plugged in but not in use. And it's big. Make sure that you are not leaving electrical items on standby mode. Switch off at the wall to prevent waste.

5. Control the temperature

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning can account for 60% of energy costs. Think about setting temperature controls which only operate below 23 C. A 1% thermostat adjustment can reduce energy costs up to 8%.

6. Check equipment

Ensure your heating equipment has been serviced by qualified service agents. Make sure your radiators are balanced, and Air conditioners have been tested.

7. Check lights

Consider LED and low energy lighting. Cheap bulbs, but over time they give you big savings.

8. Reduce paper waste

Printing less is a double saver. Less energy to run machines and less paper.

9. Check for gifts

There are grants and schemes to help organisations save.
<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk>

10. Promote

Tell your community what you are doing to be greener.