

AUSTIN HOSPITAL REAPS MAJOR ENERGY SAVINGS AT MINIMAL COST



Reprogramming of air conditioning and ventilation systems to match patient occupancy in the Austin Hospital is a major energy saving opportunity identified by Austin Health in its EREP.

Investing \$39,000 in variable-speed drive motors and oxygen trim controls to optimise operation of the steam boiler will save more than \$23,000 in annual energy costs. Further energy savings of \$3000 per annum will be achieved simply by turning off some of the foyer lights during the day.

Austin Health continues to offer support to staff and contractors in efforts to identify and implement energy-saving opportunities. The business is also exploring the option of engaging a new waste contractor, which will result in a better recycling service. The recently appointed Environment Education Officer will develop an educational campaign to encourage staff to achieve better segregation of general and clinical waste and increase recycling, thus reducing cost and disposal to landfill.

Michael McDowell, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Commercial Services, Austin Health, said the hospital is committed to providing environmentally sustainable healthcare.

'Resource efficiency strategies have been implemented, including numerous water conservation initiatives,' said Mr McDowell. 'There is a renewed focus on waste management to reduce solid waste generation and increase recycling systems.'

'Further opportunities are currently being explored and we look forward to participating in an energy efficiency pilot program, as Austin Health strives to become an industry leader in environmental management.'



Austin Health's Madeline Dorman, John Wilkinson and Ray George



Investment and savings (from actions with a payback period of three years or less)	
Estimated annual savings	
Energy:	5.025 TJ
Greenhouse gases (CO ₂ -e):	1310 t
Solid waste:	21 t
Liquid waste:	5 ML
Financial payback	
Average payback:	1.6 yrs



Austin Hospital reaps major energy savings at minimal cost

EPA Victoria's Environment Resource and Efficiency Plans (EREP) program is helping businesses achieve large resource savings and improve their bottom line through reduced energy, water and waste costs. EREP participants often find improvements can be made without major capital expenditure, so financial returns are fast.

Introduced in 2008, the EREP program is already set to achieve annual savings of around \$70 million each year for the 250 Victorian sites participating in the program.

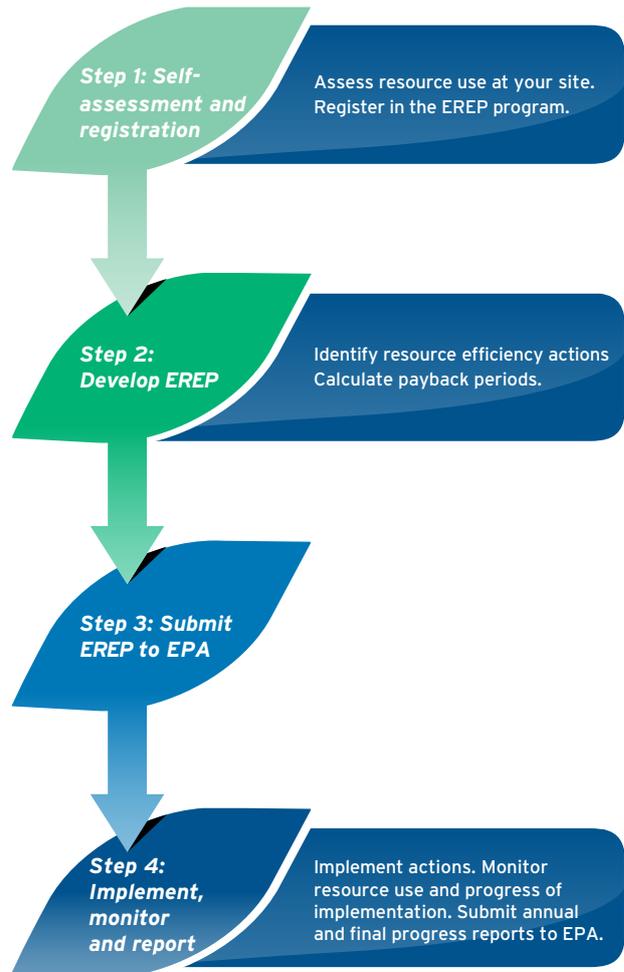
Large energy and water users are required to show they have assessed their operations, identified opportunities to improve resource efficiency and prioritised these actions. Importantly, actions that pay for themselves within three years must be implemented. To date, EPA has found that the average payback period of mandatory actions is about 10 months.

EREP participants come from a range of sectors including metals and chemicals manufacturing, food and beverage manufacturing, shopping centres, metropolitan hospitals, universities and sporting facilities.

What's in an EREP?

- Resource profile (baseline): site level energy, water and waste.
- Major energy-using, water-using and waste-generating activities.
- Actions to reduce energy and water usage and reduce waste.
- Costs, savings and efficiency gains expected from each action.
- Payback periods for each action.
- Time frames and responsibilities for implementing actions.
- Monitoring, reporting and review process.

EREP program steps



Annual EREP program savings (from actions with a payback period of three years or less)

Energy:	more than 4500 TJ (enough to power around 90,000 households*)
Greenhouse gases (CO ₂ -e):	at least 900,000 t
Water:	more than 5000 ML (around 90,000 Melburnians' annual water usage**)
Solid waste:	more than 100,000 t
Liquid waste:	more than 900 ML
Financial savings	more than \$70 million
Average payback period of actions:	around 10 months

* Based on 2005 average usage (source: www.environment.gov.au) ** Based on Target 155 (source: www.ourwater.vic.gov.au)

To find out more about the EREP program visit www.epa.vic.gov.au/erep, email erep@epa.vic.gov.au or call EPA on 03 9695 2722.