



171 on High Motel heartened by audit report

171 on High Motel, a 12-unit motel just 5 minutes walk from the centre of Blenheim, had their energy audit completed in October 2008 as part of the Tourism Energy Efficiency Programme (TEEP).

Owners Chris and Ian Johnson say they already had a culture of energy-conscious behaviour prior to the audit being completed but were pleased by the new information they learned from their audit results.



Power to the 171 on High Motel is supplied by electricity over a single standard meter. The total electrical energy consumed from September 07 to August 08 was 72,660kWh, and cost \$13,578.74. This equates to \$2.61 per guest night.

The energy audit identified potential savings of 11,685kWh, or \$1,592 of per year or approximately 11.7% of the current expenditure.

The key savings identified were:

- Replacing the remaining incandescent lamps with compact fluorescents
- Using cold water instead of warm water for washing towels
- Fitting lower-flow shower heads

Ensuring that all heated towel rails are turned off once rooms have been serviced and putting the office PC in stand-by mode rather than leaving it on when not in use were suggestions in the audit that 171 on High have put in place immediately. These changes will result in an additional saving of \$36 (heated towel rails) and \$45 (PC on standby mode) per annum.

Chris Johnson says participating in the audit process was really useful. "It was great to know that what we were doing already, we were doing right. It was also heartening to find out that the things we needed to do, we could do easily."

Most lighting had already been changed to compact fluorescent lamps and the water heating uses modern MEPS-compliant cylinders.

Fabrics washed on site are dried naturally by air wherever possible, which also reduces the energy consumed by electrical drying units. Until the audit, washing was done on a warm cycle. Changing to using a cold wash was something else they could do instantly and will save \$436 annually.



Chris and Ian are determined to get 171 on High's Energy Management score up from "good" to "very good".

"We can get nearly all of the things required done by the end of 2009 and at not a lot of cost," she said. "It was great to talk things over with the audit team and clear up the things we can do, and the things there was no point in doing. We are now looking at changing the shower heads and we will also be monitoring our energy usage more closely too."

"An additional benefit of being part of the TEEP project is the networking opportunities", Chris said "It will be good to talk to other moteliers about the audit process and share our findings with them."

KEY ENERGY SAVINGS IDENTIFIED	SAVINGS PER ANNUM
Fitting lower-flow shower heads	\$843
Changing to using a cold wash instead of hot wash for washing towels	\$436
Ensuring that all heated towel rails are turned off once rooms have been serviced	\$36
Putting the office PC in stand-by mode when not in use	\$45
Replacing the remaining incandescent lamps with compact fluorescents	\$232
TOTAL	\$ 1,592