

### Small changes make a difference at Amber Park

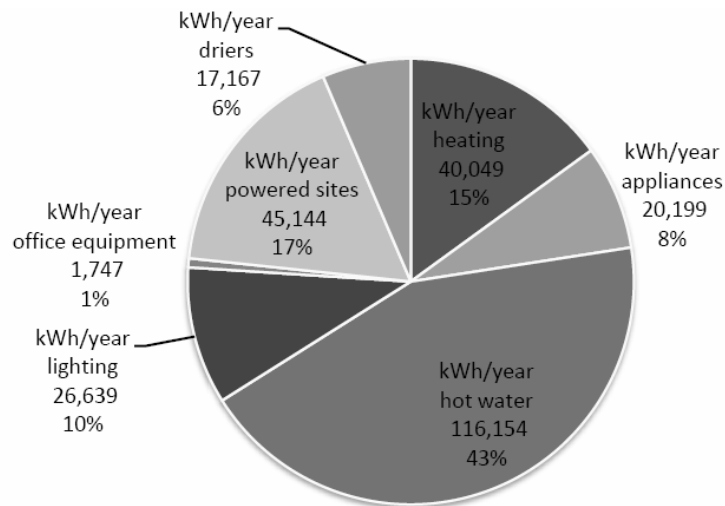
Amber Park, a compact holiday park in inner-city Christchurch, had their energy audit completed in July 2008 as part of the Tourism Industry Association NZ (TIA)'s Tourism Energy Efficiency Programme (TEEP).

A member of both TIA and HAPNZ (Holiday Association Parks of New Zealand), Amber Park has powered and non-powered sites, a variety of cabins, tourist flats, and motels and uses electricity, LPG and diesel for its energy needs.

While energy for the park cost \$45,273 for the year ending April 2008, the findings of the audit estimated energy savings between \$5,700 (13%) and \$16,000 (35%) a year could be achieved by reducing electricity consumption and energy costs making the \$1300 cost to Amber Park for the audit worthwhile.



Manager, Braden Lee says, "What was interesting was finding that hot water heating accounts for nearly half of Amber Park's power costs and it was good to find there were little things that could be done that would make a difference."



**Energy balance of Amber Park**

For example, replacing inefficient light bulbs with energy efficient ones when they blow will deliver a net cost saving of \$2,200 per year. Wrapping lagging around hot water pipes to insulate them in the old boiler room will also enable Amber Park to make small but significant savings on the holiday park's power consumption (\$400 per year).

Other short-term suggestions with an immediate payback on the investment made in the audit were:

- Reducing shower flow rates
- Fitting timers on the showers in the facility blocks
- Regularly tuning the diesel boiler

Medium term suggestions with a longer payback (i.e. 1-5 years) included:

- Installing key switches in the motel rooms
- Installing light/motion sensors in the bathrooms
- Insulating the walls and ceilings of older buildings
- Installing time switches on heaters

Long term suggestions with over 5+ years payback included:

- Replacing TV lounge heaters with a heat pump
- Using more off-peak electricity for hot water heating instead of diesel
- Installing a solar water heating system for the amenities block
- Replacing single glazing with double glazing

The mentoring support which followed the audit helped Amber Park assess priorities and provided them with support and encouragement to make the changes. The Lee family now has an action plan with achievable goals and time frames for implementing the suggestions in the audit.

Those things that didn't require a great capital outlay, like turning down the fridges, were able to be done straight away, while others including replacing the boiler system with a more energy efficient heating system, are in the long-term plans.

Given Qualmark's new emphasis on sustainability, Mr Lee sees the energy audit as a good stepping stone towards achieving a Qualmark Responsible Tourism endorsement. Being more sustainable will be good for the environment, good for the visitors, and good for business too.