

Energy audit confirms Bowentown Beach Holiday Park is on the right track

The Bowentown Beach Holiday Park is located at Waihi Beach in the Bay of Plenty. Earlier this year they were one of the first businesses to be audited as part of TEEP 2009.

Bowentown is a member of both TIA, HAPNZ and has a 4.5 star Qualmark rating. The holiday park has over 140 sites and 12 units. It



also offers guests a range of other facilities such as a swimming pool, games room and bike and kayak hire.

Bowentown Beach Holiday Park uses both electricity and LPG for its energy needs. Electricity is used mostly for lights, water heating, refrigeration and some laundry equipment. LPG is used for water heating, drying and cooking.

For 2008 the total energy bill for the Holiday Park was \$28,000, with LPG accounting for only 13% of energy use. The audit revealed that powered sites are the single largest area of energy use, accounting for more than 36% of the park's total energy spend, while heating and laundry equipment together accounted for nearly 43% of the energy spend.

The audit found the following annual energy savings could be made:

- \$1,551 if a hot water heat pump is installed for the main shower block, with payback in 6-7 years,
- \$1,366 if they changed electricity providers and signed up for a two year contract with payback instantly,
- Over \$300 by delamping fridge and vending machines

Owner/Operator Dave Roche said although they had done a lot to improve their energy efficiency he found the audit invaluable. For example, Bowentown's approximate energy use of 2.4kWh/guest night was already 39% lower than the average figure for the campground sector.

“The audit also demonstrated that we’re already on the right track, but anything that helps to make greater energy savings is worthwhile”

The audits can serve as a catalyst and educational tool for motivating staff around energy conservation. “The process has also been good for our staff. We’ve made the report available to everyone and they can see where we are making the savings and as a result they are taking more ownership themselves” said Mr. Roche.

“We’re already looking at ways to fund heat pumps that were suggested for the water in the shower block and to see if there are any incentives or subsidies out there that can assist with the cost.”

In addition to the audit report, each business in the programme receives an action plan with an implementation schedule.



The Tourism Energy Efficiency Programme (TEEP) was originally developed as a regional pilot in 2008. After a successful first year it has now been extended into a national programme for 2009.