



ASCOT PARK HOTEL FINDS AUDIT CATALYST FOR ACTION

By adopting several low-cost energy saving measures, Ascot Park Hotel could shave almost \$12,000 or 5% off its \$246,567.58 annual energy bill.

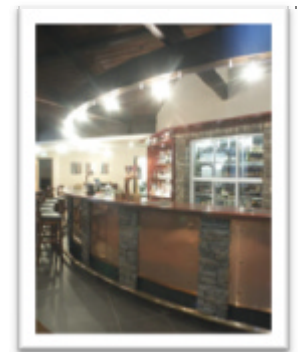


Ascot Park is located on the outskirts of Invercargill in beautiful park-like surroundings. It is the Southland city's largest hotel and conference venue.

The Ascot Park is one of several tourism businesses to be audited as part of TEEP 2009. The hotel has a total of 96 guest rooms, suites, deluxe rooms and superior rooms. Facilities include a restaurant, house bar, tavern complex, up to eight conference rooms catering for a total of 800 people, a business centre, spa, sauna and indoor swimming pool.

Energy Use

The Ascot Park uses a combination of electricity, LPG and coal for its energy needs. A coal-fired boiler is used to provide all hot water to the rooms, kitchen, public facilities and to provide rooms heating. The hotel's energy bill for 2008 was \$246,567.58, made up of electricity \$173,408.97, LPG \$22,836.65 and coal \$50,321.96.



The site's overall energy efficiency was rated as poor. This is primarily due to the inefficient use of thermal energy from lignite coal, although this is a particularly low-cost fuel and difficult to improve upon economically. The site's lighting energy efficiency is also poor, which is partially due to many incandescent lamps that are switched on.

The savings identified by the audit are mainly around improving the efficiency and control of the site's lighting and reducing flow rates of showers. Many other areas were investigated, including the operation of space and water heating systems, coal boilers, refrigeration systems and building envelope, although most were found to have no economic energy savings potential.

Costs, Savings and Payback time

Payback in three months

- Replace the existing lighting with more efficient lighting types as recommended.

Total Cost: \$2518 Total Annual Cost Saving \$10,239

Payback in four months

Improve the control of lighting on the site by investing in lighting control systems.

Total Cost \$515 Total Annual Cost Saving \$1710

Payback in five months

Install flow restrictors in the showers.

Total Cost \$460 Total Annual Cost Saving \$1184

“The energy audit was great,” says Ascot Park Hotel Executive Manager Peter Ridsdale. “It was very thought provoking and balanced. I was grateful they didn’t slap me over the hand for using coal to heat our rooms, a power source chosen for me and one that we couldn’t easily change.

“In terms of an action plan, it has made us look harder at what we can do to reduce energy costs. While we have been provided with many low cost solutions to reducing energy costs, we are now researching to see if further savings can be made by using new energy efficiency technologies. If we invest in these technologies today, it will provide greater future proofing for Ascot Park. The audit has been the catalyst for action.”

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

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