

Energy savings valuable for Christchurch Top 10 Holiday Park

The Christchurch Top 10 Holiday Park was the first business to be audited as part of TEEP from May-June this year. The holiday park is a member of both TIA and HAPNZ and is one of the largest holiday parks in New Zealand. It has more than 140 powered camping sites and 85 units varying from park motels, self-contained to standard units. It also offers a range of other facilities for its guests.

The Christchurch Top 10 Holiday Park uses electricity, LPG and coal for its energy needs. Electricity is used mostly for lights, heaters, cooking and some laundry equipment. LPG is used for water heating and clothes dryers while coal is used to heat the reticulated water system for the lodge complex and a shower block.

In the year to May 2008, the total energy bill for the Christchurch Top 10 Holiday Park was \$165,000. The audit revealed that hot water is the single largest area of energy use, accounting for more than 53% of the park's total energy spend, while heating, lighting and power for the camp sites and pool together accounted for nearly 30% of the energy spend.

The audit found the following energy savings could be made:

- \$32,000 for short term "housekeeping" initiatives with payback in the first year,
- \$60,000 for longer term capital initiatives with payback between one and five years, and
- \$63,000 for longer term capital initiatives with payback after more than five years.

Owner/Operator Dean Anderson said he was not surprised that hot water comprised the bulk of his energy bill.

"To be frank, while I already knew that hot water was our biggest energy cost, I was surprised at the sheer volume of water being used.

"The TEEP audit told us that we can make immediate savings of \$23,000 on hot water costs by reducing shower flow rates and it will only cost us \$2,000 in plumbing to do this. We'd be silly if we didn't make those changes," Mr Anderson said.

"We're going to look at what we can do in other areas as well, for instance, in heating and lighting. The audit tells us we can save \$5000 a year if we replace



the current halogen lamps with fluorescent bulbs and we'll also look at putting more key switches and insulation in as we routinely upgrade our units," he added.

"The energy audit has been very valuable for our business particularly with energy costs going up. While the auditor spent two days here, it took less than three hours of my time and I now have a detailed report on my current energy usage. I also have suggestions on what I can do to conserve energy in the future while at the same time saving money for the business".

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



TIA Chief Executive Tim Cossar said the follow up in this programme will be very important to make sure the businesses are well supported to implement recommendations.

"The aim of the programme is to continue to work with the businesses and provide ongoing mentoring and support so they will have the help they need to implement savings where they can," Mr Cossar said.