



Energy savers

Energy saving tips are useful to introduce around the home, but that's not their only application.

Being frugal in the office or workplace can make a real difference to costs. Simon Young, executive director of energy company, Utilise, says most businesses could potentially reduce their energy bills by 20 per cent with a just a few small changes.

He said that while people were conscious of conserving power in their homes, they thought differently when they went to work. Opportunities for potential savings were often overlooked. Here are some tips on how to keep on top of wastage:

Use energy-saving light bulbs

It may seem simple, but changing bulbs is a good way to start cutting back on wasted energy. "Lumens are in, watts are out," says Young about the difference between the amount of light a bulb emits, versus the amount of electricity it uses. "So look for the bulbs which deliver the lumens you need."

Businesses should take a look at back-lit signs as well, such as "exit" signs. They tend to use a lot of power. "Retrofitting them or upgrading them to run off LED lights can help save money in the long run," says Young.



Check for draughts

Plug up draughts and ensure that curtains and blinds are of good enough quality to keep the heat in. Weather strips and draught excluders can be used to seal gaps around many doors or windows.



Know your power habit

Firms need to develop a good sense of their power habits, especially in terms of how much energy areas such as heating, lighting and machinery use. "Once companies break down their usage, they can identify what needs improving first," says Young. Staff should be

encouraged to switch off equipment when it's not being used – preferably at the wall.

Around 40 per cent of energy used in a commercial building goes into providing a comfortable work temperature for employees, with a combination of heating, ventilation and air conditioning.



Keep on top of maintenance

"Scheduling regular maintenance for heating and air conditioning systems is essential because dirty and clogged units reduce efficiency which lead to bigger power bills," said Young. Improving the efficiency of hot water use and ensuring your office or building is properly insulated all add up.

Use timers

Motion sensors and timing devices for lights and heating can make sure energy is only being used when people are actually in the office.