



Keep IT Simple – Power Options for Computing Equipment

QMDC completed an energy audit on commercial premises in Goondiwindi, Queensland. The office had around 15 staff, some full time and some part time. Many staff members had more than one computer or more than one screen. Some computers were on, but had no-one driving them or were left on overnight!

Background

The site requested a Level 1 energy audit to determine existing energy usage and used the results to reduce power use.

Over the 12 months up until February 2014, the facility consumed **23 650 kWh** of electricity, emitting **20.3 tonnes** of carbon. An Energy Audit identified potential energy efficiency cost savings worth approximately **\$2,603** per annum with an average payback period of **1.7 years**. These savings represent approximately **30%** of the energy currently used by the audited buildings. About half of this was simply tuning off computers when not in use and instigating the use of power saving settings.

Computer users often erroneously think screen savers or a black screen means that they are using significantly less power. A typical computer uses 0.3-0.5 kWh per hour¹, while PC computer servers can use more of this. Much of the computing equipment did not have power saver modes selected. Some were on with screens on standby with staff saying others were left on 24/7. To be conservative, a savings of only 30% has been assumed in these calculations. This can in fact up to 75% on some screens and computers

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and depends on actual usage patterns and settings, such as time for going into sleep mode or automatic power down. These figures are also based on assumptions communicated by office staff, such as times of use and whether or not Power Save Settings are in fact on.

How to Set Power Options:

An easy explanation of how to do change these settings are here:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=power_mgt.pr_power_mgt_users

Outcome:

At no actual investment, simply turning off equipment when not in use or using power saving settings can make large savings. These practices will continue to work in the background with minimal changes to work practices.

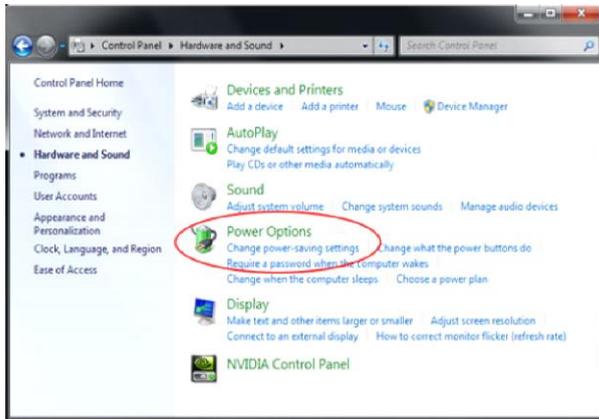


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Above: Power Option for Windows 7.

Recommendations:

Proposed Measure	Potential Savings
Power Saver Settings	\$1303
Switch off when not in use	\$237

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