CITY OF ADELAIDE

Sustainable Events: Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

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Events use energy for lighting, audio visual, cooking, ventilation, heating, air conditioning and more.

There are opportunities to improve energy efficiency, improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve operational outcomes for events through:

- designing low energy systems and operations
- efficient use of energy
- use of solar and energy storage technology
- utilising renewable or low emission energy
- utilising energy monitoring systems
- investing in or donating to community renewable energy schemes
- utilising accredited GreenPower of the highest percentage possible
- investigating voluntary offset providers to account for electricity used.

Success story

The Vegan Festival Adelaide 2018 was held in Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga and sees a significant growth in patronage and size each year. The event showcased renewable energy, good waste management practices, along with education and community engagement around sustainable living. Their unique 'solar tree' provided a convenient and renewable mobile phone recharging station, encouraging creative thought whilst enjoying the event.

The following checklist can be used as a guide to achieving an energy efficient event.
Simply select actions that are applicable to your event and ensure regular reviews for continued improvement.

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Before the event

- ☐ Create and implement an Energy Management Plan centred around efficiency and renewable energy.
- ☐ Publicly make a statement of commitment that provides a clear message to stakeholders about event values and expectations.
- ☐ Use office accommodation (or a venue) with a National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) Energy or Green Star rating of greater than 4.5 stars or an energy efficient home office supplied with renewable energy (i.e. solar).
- ☐ Assess the likely energy infrastructure required for events and collect data for;
    - o total energy required
    - o maximum load for each electrical connection point
    - o additional infrastructure
    - o generators
    - o offsets to suit emissions
    - o measuring energy usage using GreenPower Calculator.
- ☐ Choose to hold the event in daylight/outdoors/naturally-lit location if possible.
- ☐ Choose a location and equipment suppliers that provide the most energy efficient equipment (i.e. audio visual, lighting, appliances etc) and ensure that lighting is equipped with daylight sensors and timers to reduce energy waste.
- ☐ Ensure the event/venue/business uses renewable and/or accredited GreenPower energy.
- ☐ Contact energy retailers to access advice and support services for installing energy efficient devices.
- ☐ Retrofit, where possible, (trailers, offices, toilets etc) with energy efficient lighting equipment and appliances.
- ☐ Check and install draught proofing and insulation.
- ☐ Communicate energy objectives early to suppliers and stallholders.
- ☐ Link stallholder fees to their actual energy usage.
- ☐ Work with organisations that are committed to energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- ☐ Write energy requirements into supplier agreements, for example:
    - o utilising energy efficient equipment and appliances that have a high Energy Rating label
    - o minimising the use of diesel generators and locate generators away from food, gathering or high foot traffic areas (to reduce noise and reduce pollution)
    - o minimising equipment idling
    - o encouraging or supporting fuel substitution and/or storage (i.e. biodiesels and batteries)
    - o ensuring appropriate equipment placement to allow airflow, considering air quality and efficient use of natural light/shading where appropriate
    - o request reporting or data information (i.e. on usage, energy sources, etc.).
- ☐ Ensure venue owners/operators monitor, verify and report on:
    - o actual energy consumption (kWh or MWh)
    - o source of supply energy (e.g. electricity, GreenPower, fuel type, renewable energy)
    - o volumes of fuel consumption
    - o real-time energy monitoring.
- ☐ Where vehicles are required, utilise efficient electric vehicles where possible.

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Before the event (cont.)

- ☐ Use renewable energy where possible or fuel-saving biodiesel generators and monitor their use to reduce running time.
- ☐ Depending on the weather, use alternatives to air-conditioning (i.e. fans, natural ventilation and/or passive heat).
- ☐ Set thermostats to 24-27°C for cooling in summer and 18-21°C for heating in winter.
- ☐ Promote information at key touch points (i.e. websites, ticketing & entrances) and educate stakeholders so that they can confidently engage with energy efficiency.
- ☐ Utilise government or industry rebates, such as the City of Adelaide's Sustainability Incentive Scheme, for energy efficiency and renewable initiatives.
- ☐ Sign up as a Carbon Neutral Adelaide Partner and, for offices, a CitySwitch Green Office signatory, to access support, resources, networking and recognition for sustainability achievements.

During the event

- ☐ Turn off unnecessary equipment like lighting, heating, air-conditioning etc.
- ☐ Diffuse lighting and sound where possible to minimise impact to neighbours and the local community.
- ☐ Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to utilise energy offsets.
- ☐ Educate the community on energy efficiency with signage, staff engagement etc. and seek their feedback at or after the event via surveys.
- ☐ Collect energy use data.

After the event

- ☐ Conduct an online attendee survey asking energy related questions, views and values.
- ☐ Promote, celebrate and share stories with the community, venue and networks via positive media exposure.
- ☐ Document opportunities and learnings for the next event, tracking progress over time.
- ☐ Calculate greenhouse gas emissions generated.
- ☐ Consider gaining carbon certification and offsetting event emissions (i.e. through tree planting programs) – seek advice and guidelines via Climate Active.

For more information please visit:
Australian Government Energy Information
Carbon Neutral Adelaide

Did you know?
South Australia utilises the highest proportion of wind and solar in Australia (51% of its total production in 2019) making the state leaders in renewable energy

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Energy Efficiency Tips

Choose energy efficient equipment

Switch off appliances when not in use

Run your event on renewables

Set your thermostat to 24-26° in the summer and 18-20° in winter

Use modern, fuel saving generators and monitor use to reduce running time

This checklist was informed by multiple existing resources including those from the Cities of Brisbane and Melbourne. Kind thanks to everyone working in this space.

SUS20-002