

# ENERGY SAVING IN THE METALS SECTOR



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## Energy Saving Tips

Efficient energy use makes good business sense. There are many opportunities for our businesses to make simple changes to our daily operations which will save significant quantities of energy. These reductions will improve the efficiency of our businesses, increase our company profile, increase staff performance and save considerable amounts of money.

It is worth noting that industry as a whole is relatively efficient with its energy use. Many organisations have made considerable reductions in their energy demands and are reaping the benefits of their increased performance. We should use the good work that we have been doing to reduce our energy consumption across industry as motivation to increase our performance even greater.

The following are some simple tips that we can implement in our daily operations which will help save our organisations valuable resources and precious capital.

## Metal Manufacturing

- **Gas:** use gas for heating where possible.
- **Air compressors:** Maintain and fix leaks in air compressors. Operate the air compressors at the lowest possible settings. For example, operating a compressor at 120PSI instead of 100PSI requires 10% more energy. Reduce intake air temperature to increase compressor efficiency.
- **Thermostats:** Maintain and check heating thermostat levels.
- **Turn off:** Switch off equipment when not in use.
- **Covers:** Use covers on heated tubs to prevent energy loss through evaporation.
- **Insulate:** Insulate tanks where possible to reduce energy loss.
- **Scale:** Increase maintenance to reduce scale build up.
- **Boilers:** Insulate pipes and valves to reduce heat loss. Install steam traps and a system of condensate return to reduce the energy required to heat cold water.
- **Heat exchangers:** Use heat exchangers to capture steam lost from the boiler to heat input water. This will reduce energy demands significantly.
- **Lighting:** Choose energy smart lighting. Reduce lighting demands in storage areas.
- **Skylights:** Install skylights in production areas to reduce the demand for energy.
- **Waste:** Reduce waste generation and the need for rework.
- **Variable Speed Drives:** Retrofit variable speed drives to motors where possible to reduce the energy demand. This will enable motors to deliver the required loads when reducing energy demand and wear and tear.

## More information

Please visit the Ai Group Website at [www.aigroup.asn.au](http://www.aigroup.asn.au) or speak to an Ai Group Resource Efficiency Adviser on 03 9867 0111.

Information about efficient use of resources can be found at the following websites: EPA Victoria at [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au) and Sustainability Victoria at [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au)