



## Energy Efficiency Measures in Johnny's Café Parramatta

### Background

Johnny's Cafe was established in 1999 in Parramatta catering to the third-largest suburban office market in Australia, with annual market growth of about 2.5% since 2000. The proprietors Brian and July Chen provide a range of products including eat in or takeaway meals, cold drinks, smoothies and barista coffee. Johnny's Café employs 6 staff and had annual energy bills in excess of \$8,100.

Energy issues were a concern to Brian and July due to the increasing cost. Due to a lack of knowledge and time constraints they were unable to find energy efficiency measures to implement.

The proprietors attended one of the 3E Project Energy Efficiency workshops in 2012 and subsequently had an energy audit completed. The audit revealed there were significant opportunities for savings to be made from behaviour change, air conditioning, refrigeration and lighting upgrades.

The equipment upgrade was carried out and the result was:

- Improved street appeal of the shop
- Better lighting quality increasing the appeal of food on display, increasing sales
- A higher star rating air conditioning which can now cope with extremes of weather
- Better staff comfort and lighting quality at work areas
- Reduced energy costs
- Further reduced energy costs through the use of a timer provided by 3E Project

### Measures Implemented

The old window mounted air conditioner which was running at full capacity most of the time was replaced with an energy efficient star rated split system. This has provided capacity to



effectively cool the café in extreme weather thus represents a significant increase in energy productivity as the threshold for comfort can now be met and less energy is used in the process. The annual savings are 1382 kWh, a 75% reduction. There is the added benefit of noise reduction with the new unit as the compressor and condenser units are located outside the shop in a separate unit.

The original T8 fluorescent lighting has been replaced by T5 lighting which results in annual energy savings of 440 kWh reducing lighting bills by 31%. The combination of new tubes being clean, new and more efficient resulted in a brighter, more appealing café which has attracted more customers.

The under bar fridge and display cabinet have been replaced with a more efficient model saving 2727 kWh annually. The previous unit had a damaged condenser, which reduced the heat exchange capacity, further reducing the energy efficiency and increasing running costs.



The replacement unit also has a better system of lighting, which according to Brian, makes the food look more attractive, an important factor for a food retailer.

A timer has been installed on one of the drinks fridges which only contain non-perishables which should save up to 30% of the running cost.

### Outcomes

Johnny's Cafe has been extremely pleased with the outcome of their participation in the 3E project from a financial and business image perspective. They found the project team very informative and helpful.

Customers have found the shop more noticeable from the street, brighter and are now able to see the selection of food in the refrigerated display clearly and in a better light.

Staff have better lighting around their cooking and preparation areas and the effective air conditioning has reduced fatigue on hot days as demonstrated during a run of 42 degree C days in 2013. This has improved the WHS compliance and provided a more productive work environment. The comfort levels have increased for customers as it creates a better environment where they are likely to stay longer and spend more.



The business has seen an increase in “drop in” customers who are quoted as saying “has the shop been painted? It looks much brighter”. Brian and July are finding that they can run the air conditioning when needed to maintain client and staff comfort, knowing that the new air conditioner is more efficient and it is also quieter. This is helping to reduce energy bills compared to the previous ineffective wall mounted unit.



The project methodology allowed Brian and July to overcome their lack of knowledge regarding energy efficiency and the suspicion that the savings would not eventuate. Attending workshops and having an audit report which detailed the potential savings gave them some confidence that the opportunity was genuine. The NSW Energy Saver Scheme grant assisted with the cash flow issues many SME face when pursuing capital upgrades.

Overall annual savings of 5 MWh should be realised, reducing costs by \$1100.

Website Address: <http://3eproject.org.au/>

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