

NAGA Briefing for Parliamentarians Q4 2013-14

This paper has been prepared to update MPs on the activities of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA), for the fourth quarter of the 2013-14 financial year.

NAGA is the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, a network of nine councils and the Moreland Energy Foundation working together to reduce climate emissions and adapt to climate change impacts. Its member councils are Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Manningham, Melbourne, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra. NAGA's activities include developing and implementing regional projects, sharing best practice amongst its members and advocacy for a low carbon future.

Projects

Energy Efficiency Made Easy

Focuses on the development and delivery of easy to implement energy efficiency actions for small to medium enterprises across northern metropolitan Melbourne.

Provides information products (factsheets, case studies and videos) to key sectors: Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Retail Trade; Accommodation and Food Services and Manufacturing.

Information is available in English, and Arabic, Turkish, Vietnamese, Chinese (Mandarin), Italian and Greek.

The project has also contributed to building and maintaining an effective network of economic development officers across the NAGA councils.



Here are five ways small or medium business like yours can save energy. They're cheap and easy actions that take next to no time, and they'll save you money on electricity bills and maintenance costs.

- 1. Use lighting economically**

Creating lighting efficiencies in your business is one of the easiest ways to reduce energy bills, because lighting accounts for a large portion of energy use. In a typical office, lighting contributes to 38% of all energy used.

 - De-lamp overlit areas. De-lamping removes light globes or tubes in areas that are overlit, underused or receive enough natural light. De-lamp fluorescent tubes by removing one tube from every bank of two in strategic areas around the office, such as passageways between desks.
 - Replace halogen downlights. Standard halogen downlights use a lot of energy for the amount of light they emit. There are energy saving alternatives that produce as much light while reducing electricity by up to 80%. Replace 50 watt (W) halogen downlights with more efficient lights, such as compact fluorescent lights (CFL) or light emitting diodes (LED). CFL and LED downlight replacements will fit into your existing light fixture.
- 2. Refrigerate efficiently**

Your refrigeration system can be responsible for a big chunk of your energy bill. But if you run it efficiently you can reduce your energy use by 20% and cut your overall running costs.

 - Install a 24-hour timer on your non-perishable drinks fridge. By switching the fridge off when the business is closed, a lot of energy used by (older model) commercial fridges can be saved. Simply plug the timer into the power socket, set the time, then plug the appliance into the timer. You should only store non-perishable drinks in your fridge when using a fridge timer. Available from hardware shops.

Project has engaged 450 businesses and is currently collecting case studies of small businesses that have implemented successful energy efficiency technology and recorded operational savings.

Integrated Regional Vulnerability Assessment

Twelve month project building a regional approach to climate change adaptation planning. Project value = \$150,000. The project is nearing completion of its first stage, which identifies key risks to assets, services and communities across the region. An evaluation of the project is also underway.

First milestone achieved; reports and invoice submitted to the Department of Environment and Primary Industry.

Upcoming: 5 workshops with NAGA council staff in July/August. Council staff from human services, infrastructure, planning, emergency management, natural ecosystems and industry will be attending.



Solar Scale Up

Ongoing project to share information amongst member councils on ways to support accelerated uptake of solar power. NAGA hosted a seminar on solar leasing and alternate financing models for commercial scale solar in conjunction with the Clean Energy Council on 1 April.

Investigating Rates Mechanism

Project aims to engage policy makers and the real estate industry to overcome information, financial and policy barriers to improved quality housing for vulnerable low income and rental households.

This project has two streams:

Darebin Solar Saver - this innovative project applies a special rates charge to enable pensioner home owners to install solar PV to reduce their energy costs and improve home comfort. Households are provided with energy efficiency advice and, an offer of solar PV which is re-paid through a special charge attached to the property. This stream is managed by Darebin Council and has engaged 300 pensioner households.

Rental Property Upgrades - property owners have proved a difficult to reach group. A number of small scale pilots will reach out to property owners (landlords) through the rates database, as well as real estate property managers, to provide information and incentives to upgrade their property. NAGA aims to better understand the challenges and barriers to reach property owners and for them to take action. This stream is managed by NAGA and development of communications strategy and materials is underway.

Data and Municipal Profiles

Project collects household energy use data and creates profiles for average use per suburb. This helps councils plan for where energy saving programs are best delivered. NAGA is currently revising the data analysis process and reporting format prior to commencing the 2012 profiles (sample profile for the City of Whittlesea attached).

Further Information

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