



The Royal Flying Doctor Service



How the Royal Flying Doctor Service's Townsville Base cut their daily electricity cost by 18.8%*

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is a not-for-profit organisation providing medical support to anyone living, working or travelling in remote Queensland.

The organisation is committed to being a good environmental citizen, and as an aviation business, realised that their greenhouse gas emissions were significant.

Savings Snapshot

Small changes that made a big difference



Insulation

Insulating roof cavity to reduce air conditioning use.



Heat pump

Installing a heat pump and retiring the electric hot water service.



LED lamps

Replacing fluorescent tubes with high efficiency LED lamps.



Steriliser

Switching off the sterilizer when not in use.



Air conditioner

Maintaining air conditioner compressors, filters and fins.

Less money spent on energy, means more investment in services

The RFDS provides an essential service that's expensive to operate. From the Townsville Base, two aircraft serve a vast area. It's essential that funds are directed to core services while running costs—including electricity—are kept to a minimum.

Electricity consumption down by

31.8%*

*energy savings shown are from an independent auditor's measurement and verification, report conducted in 2011.

Money Saving Choices



Flying into a greener future

RFDS's Townsville base took the lead in developing the organisation's first environmental policy—an essential initiative when competing for contracts. All personnel were involved in the project and the policy was rolled out to all RFDS bases in Queensland.



Where was the electricity going?

In 2010, RFDS Townsville Base estimated their electricity bill at around \$11,200 utilising business Tariff 20. Most of the electricity was being used to power air-conditioning, lighting and a steriliser unit. The lighting came from T8 tri-phosphor tubes, and RFDS received a premature failure rate of 50% of these—adding to their maintenance costs.



Opportunities to save

An energy audit identified potential ways to reduce electricity consumption by up to 28%*. Some of these steps required investment, not possible in the short term, so concepts were prioritised. Fortunately some of the most effective were also the most affordable and included: reviewing and reducing air-conditioner use, replacing T8 Tri-phosphor fluorescent tubes with LED lighting, and switching off the steriliser when it's not being used—21 out of 24 hours!



And the results are in

Electricity consumption at RFDS Townsville Base has been reduced by 31.8%* (17,920kWh) and demand by 41.6%* (6.7 kVA). Daily electricity cost has been reduced by 18.8%*. Further savings are expected following the installation of timers on hangar and apron flood-lighting.



An investment with infinite returns

RFDS Townsville Base invested less than \$5,000 in energy efficiency initiatives. Labour to install the roof insulation and heat pump was donated by local suppliers.



Above: LED lighting brightens the office areas.

Your turn

Go to “Save on your bill” at ergon.com.au/your-business to help you choose an energy efficiency consultant and take the first step towards reducing your energy costs.

