Five steps
to become an energy-saving fire, ambulance or police service

Did you know that saving energy could reduce your bills and free up budget to invest in frontline measures? Here's our five-step plan to help you do just that.

1: Understand your energy costs

You'll know from reviewing your energy bill that it's made up of two main charges: **energy costs** and **non-energy costs** – and you'll need to tackle both if you're to see a significant reduction in your overall bill.

Your **energy costs** are determined by the price of wholesale electricity. But you can reduce this cost by being clever in how and when you use energy, and by educating staff about the importance of energy efficiency.

Your **non-energy costs** – which typically make up the majority of your bill – cover things like your use of the grid and decarbonising of the UK's electricity supply. The good news is we can help you reduce these with some simple changes to how you manage your energy – and support you in explaining the complexities of managing non-energy costs to the budget holder (see this **cheatsheet** explaining non-energy costs).

2: Identify any energy-saving changes you can make

To reduce your energy costs, you need to look at how you're using electricity across your buildings. Start by using any existing systems to their full capacity. If your building management system allows you to set zones and times for heating, make sure you do this. Also: are thermostats located in the correct places? Too much sunlight or cold air could upset how these work.

With our auditing and live monitoring tools, you can better understand how you're using energy, identify savings opportunities and track performance. **PowerReport**, our remote and rapid solution, gives you the quickest overview of all your sites with minimal disruption. Or we also have **PowerNow**, a detailed solution with a digital dashboard, which gives you live consumption insights into individual energy assets, to help you make ongoing efficiency improvements.

Have you watched our free webinars with handy energy-saving tips?

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Inspired by EDF Energy's schools programme. Find out more at jointhepod.org

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3: Maximise support available to you from EDF Energy

As an EDF Energy customer, you have free access to a full range of support services at **edfenergy.com/NEPO** and webinars on all sorts of topics.
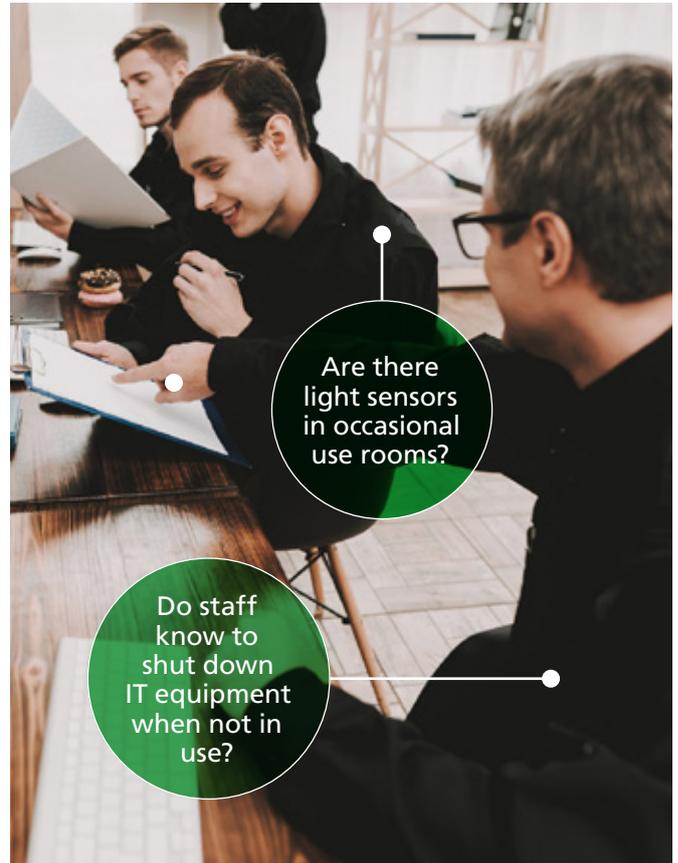
For most emergency services, the buildings will inevitably be in use around the clock, so it's important to make sure you're not using electricity unnecessarily when it's at its most expensive. Our range of specialist support services – like our free **Triad Alert service** – could save you money by shifting your energy use for non-essential tasks (like cleaning) outside peak times. One customer saved £10,000 a year just by shifting their laundry to run one hour later. We also offer a free Personalised Saving Plan and Maximum Import Capacity Review – both of which can help you become more energy savvy and reduce bills with very little effort.

Are there light sensors in occasional use rooms?

Do staff know to shut down IT equipment when not in use?

4: Promote saving energy amongst staff

One of the most effective ways in which you can reduce energy consumption is by educating staff about the importance of saving energy: involve them and ask for their input. Are lights labelled clearly, so they know which they can turn off? Do they switch off lights when there's enough natural daylight? Even sharing messages about the importance of saving energy (such as not charging your mobile phone unnecessarily) can make a difference if everyone joins in, so get buy-in from all levels of staff.

Consider running a 'switch off' campaign that promotes the benefits of saving energy and the impact on staff resources (less money spent on electricity frees up money that could be spent on more staffing, vehicles or equipment). You could also appoint Energy Champions to spread the message or to check lights and appliances are switched off when not in use.

Energy-saving or sustainability days are an opportunity to tell local communities how you're taking steps to become energy efficient too, so they know budgets are being prioritised for frontline measures.

5: Invest in energy efficiency

Consider installing timer switches to turn off ICT equipment at the end of the day and light sensors in toilets. Check the settings on timers – and your heating or building management systems – on a regular basis, to make sure they haven't been overridden or changed.

Don't forget to switch off vending machines in unused areas at night time. If left on continuously, a typical vending machine can cost around £120 per year in energy costs alone*. Make sure you're also using energy-efficient lighting, as this is a big contributor to your bills.

Small refurbishment changes to consider include installing draught lobbies (a double set of doors), or wiring lights on separate controls so that those near windows can be switched off independently to those elsewhere in the room**. And don't forget to talk to us: we're always looking for ways to help you become more energy efficient.

Light levels can fall by 30% in two to three years without regular maintenance**

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