If you have your Smart meter set to send half-hourly reads, you’ll soon see how these tips can save on your energy bills.

RETAIL SPACE

From boutiques to convenience stores, if customers come to you to buy goods and services then creating a welcoming shop floor/front of house is very important. All the energy basic top tips for lighting, heating, cooling and workplace kitchens will also apply to you so check them out.

1. If your store has large windows that offer lots of natural light then, in the right conditions, they will offer lots of natural heat too. You’ll find the daily temperature variation can be significant as the seasons change – cooler in the morning with natural warming throughout the day. This is your chance to turn down the heating later on, even on overcast days.

2. If display lighting is part of your set up, spot light-emitting diodes (LED’s) work just as well as halogen lights and can use less power.

3. For general purpose lighting modern compact fluorescents (CFL’S) that work in standard fittings are available in an increasingly wide range of colours to suit most needs. Switch to CFL’s and you will cut your lighting consumption.

4. Install pull-down blinds on open dairy and produce cases. Outside shop trading hours, these blinds keep refrigerated air from escaping.

5. Position chilled cabinets away from external doors if possible.

6. Install evaporative condensers, instead of air-cooled condensers, to expel heat. Evaporative condensers use a wetted filter that increases the ability to reject heat.

7. Keep your exterior and goods doors closed as much as possible. Consumers frequently complain about retailers who run their air conditioning on high to keep their stores as cold as possible while leaving their doors wide open.

8. If you have a staff room or storage room then think about installing lighting occupancy sensors that automatically turn lights on or off, depending on occupancy. These sensors work well in areas that are not occupied continuously.

9. Change out incandescent or florescent exit signs with LED exit signs.

RETAIL SPACE (CONT.)

Energy Efficiency facts and figures have been sourced in May 2014 against reports from Carbon Trust and Energy Savings Trust.