



Five steps to become an energy-saving leisure centre

Energy is the second biggest cost for most sports centres (after staff)*. So it's worth making sure you're maximising all the savings available to you. Our five-step plan will 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 the centre. 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.

Energy costs in the leisure sector can account for 30% of total running costs*

3: Maximise available support support available to you

As an EDF Energy customer, you have free access to a full range of support services at [edfenergy.com/SP](https://www.edfenergy.com/SP) and webinars on topics such as preparing for winter and managing reconciliations payments.

Although the leisure sector is typically busiest in peak electricity periods (4-7pm), you can still achieve some easy savings by reviewing your electricity use during this period. 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.

4: Promote saving energy amongst staff and the public

One of the most effective ways to reduce energy consumption is to educate staff about the importance of saving energy. Encourage them to switch lights or equipment off (in the offices and around the centre) when not in use; and to report problems with heating and air conditioning controls rather than attempting to override them. If cleaning staff are the last ones to leave the centre at night, make sure you get buy-in from them too – and have visual ‘switch off’ reminders (you can find stickers and posters on the **Carbon Trust** website) in every building. You could also appoint Energy Champions to check lights and appliances are turned off when the centre is closed.

Consider running a ‘switch off’ campaign to kickstart your initiative, and promote the benefits of saving energy. Focus on the impact saving energy could have on staff resources (freeing up money to invest in new equipment), and improved working conditions (it’s more pleasant working in a correctly-heated environment). Involve the public too: share your energy-saving success stories and ask them to help conserve energy at the centre.



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, store rooms and other occasional use rooms. Do you have variable speed fans or a ‘humidistat’ in the pool area to help with ventilation?* Don’t forget to switch off vending machines too (if you can) at night and weekends. If left on continuously, a typical vending machine can cost around £120 per year in energy costs alone.**

More extensive upgrades include switching to a combined heat and power (CHP) system, as these can lower costs significantly if you have heated swimming pools.* But you’ll need to check what’s possible with your manufacturer before making any changes to your set-up. And don’t forget to talk to us to see if we can help you: we’re always looking for ways to help you become more energy efficient.

Up to 65% of the energy used in a leisure centre goes on pool heating and ventilation*