



Five steps to become an energy-saving Trust

Never before has it been so important to look at reducing your energy bills. NHS Trusts are under huge financial pressure to reduce costs while meeting targets for patient care and CO₂ emissions. Saving energy can help on both counts. Here's our five-step plan to help you save energy and reduce your bills.

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 site. 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. Consider installing timer switches in occasional use rooms too – and check the settings on a regular basis to make sure they haven't been changed.

With our live energy monitoring tool, **PowerNow**, you can find out how you're using electricity around your site. This detailed solution comes with a digital dashboard to give you live consumption insights into individual energy assets, so you can make ongoing efficiency improvements.

The healthcare sector spends more than £400 million a year on energy*

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](https://www.edfenergy.com/NEPO) and webinars on topics such as preparing for winter and reconciliation payments.

With the move towards a 24-hour NHS, 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 could save you money on your bills by helping you shift your energy use for non-essential tasks (like laundry) outside peak times. Our free **Triad Alert service** saved the Met Office £158,000 in one year alone. 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 your bills with very little effort.

4: Promote saving energy amongst staff and patients

One of the most effective ways in which you can reduce energy consumption is by educating staff about the importance of saving energy. Ask for their input too – where do they think energy is being wasted? Are lights labelled clearly so they know which they can turn off? Without buy-in from the Trust board down, you'll struggle to get your energy-saving initiatives off the ground.

Consider running a 'switch off' campaign that promotes the benefits of saving energy and the impact on Trust resources (less money spent on electricity frees up money that could be spent on more staffing or new equipment). You could also appoint Energy Champions to spread the message or to check lights and appliances are switched off when not in use. Lighting can account for more than 20% of your energy costs*.

Energy-saving or sustainability days are an opportunity to raise awareness amongst patients and visitors too – and show them the initiatives the Trust is taking to be energy efficient – so publicise these widely too.



5: Invest in energy efficiency

Electricity represents more than 50% of a hospital's energy costs* – and this is rising with more investment in specialist medical equipment. So it's worth looking for energy-efficient measures to prevent wastage, if possible.

Consider installing timer switches to turn off ICT equipment at the end of the day or light sensors in toilets. And don't forget to switch off vending machines when not in use – a typical vending machine can cost around £120 per year in energy costs alone**.

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*. More extensive upgrades include switching to a combined heat and power (CHP) system, as these can reduce a hospital's energy bill by 30%*. And don't forget to talk to us: we're always looking for ways to help you become more energy efficient.

You could save up to 30% on heating costs with some simple measures*