



THE BUSINESS AT HAND: ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Did you know that businesses and institutions in our region spend EC\$340 million on energy each year? In fact, some companies are spending up to 50 percent of their operating costs on energy. If you are one of them, that's a lot of cash coming out of your company's bottom line. But there is something you can do about it. You can take some simple yet practical energy-saving steps that will decrease your energy use—and save you money.

It's called energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency is a powerful tool that not only cuts your organisation's utility bill but also helps strengthen the country's economy. Energy efficiency reduces the dependence on imported fuel, keeping the price of energy down and eliminating the need to build new power plants. At the same time, lower consumption means less greenhouse gases that cause global climate change.

To help you get started, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat is launching its energy efficiency public education and awareness campaign, **Power Savers—The Power is in your Hands**. The Power Savers campaign will show you that energy savings are within your reach. It provides simple yet practical energy-saving tips that you and your employees can do to stop wasting energy. You'll see how the power to save is in your hands.

No matter what type of organisation you are—commercial or institutional—Power Savers can show you how to stop wasting energy. Go to our website at www.powersavers.org and get started saving today.

Power Savers Launches Energy Efficiency Webinars for Businesses and Institutions

The Power Savers campaign will feature a three-part webinar series designed to help you understand your energy costs, identify energy savings opportunities and implement an energy management program that will ensure your organization meets its energy savings targets and saves money. We invite building and facility owners, managers and operators, energy managers, energy management service providers and utilities to participate in the three 1-hour-long webinars.



This public education and awareness campaign on energy efficiency is funded by the Caribbean Development Bank.



Webinar 1, Energy Performance Assessment, will help you gain an understanding of how energy is used in your facility, enable you to track performance improvements over time, and compare your performance to other similar facilities in your region. Webinar 2, Spot the Opportunity, will help you find energy savings opportunities in your facility and develop a compelling business case to make sure they get implemented. In webinar 3, Energy Management Planning, we'll walk through the steps to develop an energy management program. We'll also review the typical sections of an energy management plan to help your organization set goals, develop an action plan and implement a continuous improvement process that will save energy and reduce costs.

First Webinar is set for November 21st

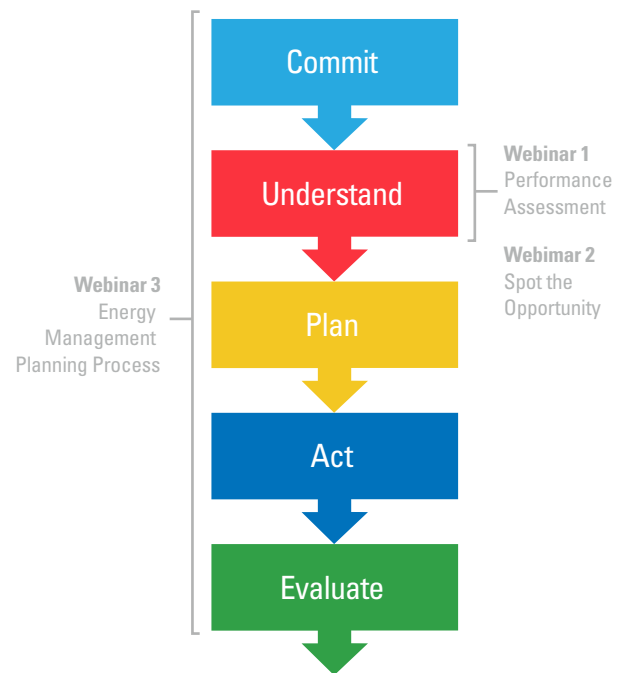
Save the date and join us on November 21st, 2013, for the first webinar, Energy Performance Assessment. Please check your email for an upcoming invitation to the webinar that provides details on how to participate. Contact Emily.Kirke@icfi.com if you want to participate or if you have any questions.

Sandals Grande St. Lucia: Best Practices in Energy and Water Performance Assessment

Managing energy and water costs is top of mind for the Sandals Grande resort in St. Lucia, and that is why it has implemented energy performance assessment best practices at every level in its operations.

At the corporate level, Sandals uses an online tool called EarthCheck Assessed to track electricity, fuel and water use and costs, enabling the company to make year-to-year comparisons, as well as to make comparisons across facilities. The company's resorts are audited on an annual basis so that utility data can be verified. Sandals demonstrates its commitment to energy management as an EarthCheck Platinum Certified company and works with EC3 Global, an international tourism and environmental advisory group specializing in sustainable tourism and research.

At the operational level, early every morning, a Sandals technician reads all of the utility meters so that fuel, electricity and water use can be tracked. This tracking also helps identification of related, non-energy issues such as leaks that might not be visible on the property. The energy and water data is shared with all employees in the form of an Energy Wheel, a visual display that helps employees see how much of each resource was used on the previous day.



How the webinars fit together





POWER LINES

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The Energy Wheel is a tool that debuted in the Bahamas and has been deployed across all Sandals resorts in the region. New employees are introduced to the Energy Wheel during their orientation as part of Sandals' Earth Guard Program. Richard Matthias, the Environmental Manager at the Sandals Grande feels that the Energy Wheel "helps employees see how energy use at the resort impacts the company's bottom line."

Recent Study Highlights Energy Efficiency Potential in the Region

A recent study conducted for the OECS Secretariat by Econoler, a Canadian-based firm, confirms that there are plenty of energy efficiency opportunities across all economic sectors in OECS countries. Econoler's proposed energy efficiency Action Plan elaborates two programs targeting electricity-intensive consumers in the region and estimates these programs could achieve a 10% reduction of the total OECS electricity consumption, an amount slightly more than the total electricity consumption of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

A "Direct Install" program would primarily target residential and commercial buildings (including hotels) and focus on the following key energy efficiency measures: light-emitting diodes (LEDs), energy-efficient fluorescent tubes and electronic ballasts, high-efficiency air conditioning (AC) units and Solar Water Heaters (SWHs). An "Institutional Program" would target energy efficiency opportunities in government facilities, street lighting and water and wastewater facilities. Econoler also proposed program measures to reduce energy consumption in the transport sector with a focus on improving public transport in large urban areas, promoting active transport (e.g., walking and cycling) and implementing an awareness and training campaign on eco-driving and proper maintenance of vehicles. The Econoler Final Report is available at the Social and Sustainable Development Division of the OECS Secretariat in St. Lucia (758-455-6327), SSDD@oecs.org.



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