

# Business Energy Efficiency Program

Powering productivity | energy efficiency, smart business sense

## Frequently asked Questions

### >1 If we join BEEP, what will Big Switch Projects actually do? What will happen first?

Usually, the first step will be to review your facility for cost-effective energy saving projects. We'll make sure we understand your operations and special needs, and then perform the energy efficiency review, sometimes known as an "energy audit". We will deliver a concise report with a list of project options, typically a "shopping list" of 10 to 12 opportunities with their indicative capital costs and forecast annual savings in energy use, energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

### >2 Where do you think you'll find savings?

In a commercial building, typically in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, in lighting (both light fittings and controls), hot water, building controls, and by installing or improving power factor correction. If you run an industrial site, the savings will probably be in improving process controls and air compressors.

### >3 What will our energy efficiency review look like?

It won't be a lengthy report that will sit on a shelf gathering dust. It'll be a concise, plain-English report with a project "shopping list" of, typically, 10 to 12 energy efficiency opportunities with their budget capital costs, annual energy savings in kilowatt-hours or gigajoules, annual dollar savings, greenhouse gas savings, and financial analysis. If you wish, we can include a forecast value for the carbon emissions saved. If you're running an office or office building, we can do a NABERS rating too if you wish. NABERS is a government-endorsed rating tool for greenhouse emissions and water use in performance.

### >4 If we implement your recommendations, will staff or our customers notice any difference?

Do you want them to? If you do, we'll make sure our review includes sound ideas for your foyer or showroom. But many changes will be to back-of-house areas and to air-conditioning.

### >5 What will we need to provide to you?

We'll want an authorization to access your power and gas use records through your energy company. This will require a signed authorization. We'll also need copies of your energy bills, energy contracts, the location of your meters, your NMIs (National Meter Identifiers) and, later, building and site plans, preferably As-Built drawings.

### >6 How accurate will the capital cost estimate be?

The Australian Standard for energy audits, 3598:2000, dictates a range of accuracy of plus or minus 20%. Pricing is based on our professional experience, not tendered equipment pricing.

### >7 I don't want a report. I want reduced power bill!

Fine, but first we need to do the diagnostic and identify your unique opportunities. Then you need to invest in implementing them. The report is the means to the end that we both want: a reduced power bill.

### >8 How long will a review take?

It will depend on your response to our questions, your needs and your starting date availability. Having said that, typically 10 to 12 weeks from the proposal acceptance.



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## >9 How much will I save?

It's hard to predict with confidence before the diagnostic is done, but in our experience we will typically find 10 to 30% savings. The value of savings will also depend on your minimum ROI hurdle. If you accept longer returns on your initial investment, we can deliver bigger savings. That is, there are only going to be few savings if you want your money back in six months; there will be many if you accept a 5 year return.

## >10 Will this be compatible with other government energy schemes?

Yes. We will be using the coming National Greenhouse Energy Reporting System being developed for carbon emissions trading and the Energy Efficiency Opportunities Program.

## >11 What if I don't want to implement the findings?

That is your decision. Obviously, when we find sound and profitable energy efficiency projects we'd like you to implement them, but it's not mandatory. We accept you may have other business priorities.

## >12 I am already doing Energy Efficiency Opportunities. Do I need to do this too?

The Solar City BEEP scheme is not mandatory. But it can help you deliver savings that form part of your assessment and reporting schedule that's part of the EEO framework. BEEP can also provide local marketing support for your staff, customers and the local community.

## >13 Can you provide more detail about the energy efficiency review and what it identifies?

The audit performed for the BEEP program is a Level 2 audit carried out to the Australian Standard 3598:2000. This will identify where savings may be made and will provide a statement of costs and potential savings in energy and dollars. We will also produce an estimate of annual greenhouse gas savings. With a Level 2 audit, the estimates of capital costs for equipment upgrades (lighting, air conditioning, hot water and so on) are budget costs with an accuracy of within 20%. The Level 2 audit is designed as a cost-effective review that allows firms to then make decisions on investments in saving energy.

## >14 I have already done an energy audit. Can BEEP offer anything new?

An energy audit alone delivers nothing. We can help with implementation and ensure your projects are formally and rigorously reported and that you gain recognition for doing the right thing by cutting energy and carbon emissions.

## >15 How do I know that Big Switch Projects' fee to do this work is value for money?

As part of the Solar Cities program, we offer discounts and rebates for the energy efficiency reviews, helping keep the project identification stage cost down. It is not in our interest to overcharge for reviews. However, if you wish to use another energy auditor, you may do so.

## >16 Can you help communicate what we are doing?

Yes. The BEEP Business Recognition Program, within reason, will help you with material for press releases, staff newsletters, and limited help with public relations. We'd love to produce a case study on any interesting project you've done.

## >17 We want an auditor who is experienced with our type of facility.

Big Switch Projects' main area of expertise is in commercial buildings but for the Solar Cities program we're also performing energy efficiency reviews of industrial sites. We'll ensure our technical consultants understand the unique characteristics of your operations, whether commercial, industrial, or mixed.

## >18 Give me some assurance that energy-saving opportunities will be identified.

This is a little like asking the doctor for a diagnosis before the visit! However, it's a question we get asked all the time. In our experience, there are always opportunities for energy savings. Very few buildings were designed to minimise long-term energy use; most buildings were built to a tight capital budget. The level of savings depends on a number of factors, including the financial hurdle rates you apply, so it's difficult to provide specific figures. Based on our experiences with past projects, we've found that 10-30% savings are usually discovered.



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