

Case Study – Electricity Costs Cut by 24% at The Ovens Bar

The Ovens Bar is located in a 3-storey building in Cork city centre. The lay-out is,

- Ground floor: main bar and wheelchair-accessible WC;
- 1st floor: function room (used at weekends), smoking area and customer toilets;
- 2nd floor: cold-room and additional storage space.



€13,200 was spent on electricity in the previous 12 months. The proprietor appointed Atlantic Energy to reduce this expense in a cost-effective manner.

Survey

A comprehensive survey of the premises was carried out during which we identified all areas in which significant improvements could be achieved at a reasonable cost:

Lighting: There were a large number of light fittings in the main bar, toilets & stairwells, operating for over 12 hours each day. The light bulbs used – incandescent bulbs and halogen recess bulbs – consume far more electricity than is necessary by today's standards.

Equipment: The cooling equipment in The Ovens – 3 fridges, 2 multi-coolers and the cold room – was running continuously even though the main bar is closed for twelve hours each day and the function room is only used at weekends. Big savings could be made by reducing their operating time though care must be taken to ensure the quality of the product is unaffected.

Electricity Supplier: Competition between electricity suppliers is currently strong. This presents opportunities for businesses to get cheaper electricity simply by changing supplier and/or changing tariff.

Improvements Made

After consultation with the client the following changes were made:

Lighting: The existing bulbs were replaced by modern, inexpensive, low-energy bulbs leading to an immediate reduction in electricity use as well as an improvement in the quality of light in the building. The new bulbs last substantially longer than the old bulbs so the long-term bulb replacement costs are also reduced.

Equipment: Electronic controls were installed to periodically switch off the cooling equipment when not in use, which saved a lot of money. Testing was performed to ensure the quality of the product was unaffected.

Electricity Supplier: A change of supplier brought an extra 3% saving on top of the savings achieved through energy-efficiency.

Results

Measured savings at The Ovens in the 3 months since the energy-saving devices were installed are as follows:

Day-rate: 22% reduction;
Night-rate: 31% reduction;

Overall: the monthly bill has been reduced by **24%**.

This will lead to a saving of **€3,150** on the yearly electricity bill.

These savings are not a one-off. They will be maintained in the coming years without the need for any additional work.

Conclusion

Our work has brought about a permanent and substantial reduction in the amount of electricity used at The Ovens **without changing the day-to-day operation of the bar.**

The installation work was carried out in one session and outside of trading hours so there was no disruption of business.

Most importantly, the quality of the product has been unaffected by the improvements made.

All the techniques used in this project can be applied in other settings, such as shops, offices, restaurants and schools.

For further information on cutting electricity costs in your business, contact:

Atlantic Energy,
021 4500 580
info@atlantice.com
<http://www.atlantice.com>