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'Sustainability is Survivability'

Efficiency is Free –ask for more

Picking the low hanging fruit.

The built environment is a major contributor to climate change yet is one of the easiest areas to implement mitigation and adaptation. 98% of the built environment is already there so if we are going to maximise our mitigation of climate change we need to look at existing buildings.

In order to minimise energy use and carbon production while also reduce your rapidly increasing electricity costs there is much we can do in existing hospitals to reduce energy use, and save phenomenal amounts of money.

In one facility recently Vim Sustainability audited we indicated that if the client spent \$35,000 in non structural energy efficiency work they would save \$50,000 per annum based on current power costs. The cost of the Level 3 Australian Standard audit was \$10,000 Remember if power bills go up at 15% per annum your \$100,000 annual power bill will become a \$1.7 million annual power bill in 20 years time! Can you afford to neglect that?

Reviewing your existing facility for efficiencies is the first step to maximising profit and minimising carbon. Rectifying your facility and investigating waste will ensure a significant sustainable outcome for often little cost. Simply reviewing operation and maintenance manuals to see how the energy wasting services in your facility were designed will provide significant value and is one of the first places we look when we undertake audits.

Air conditioning is one of the major energy users in hospitals yet there will always be a significant percentage of people who are uncomfortable no matter how good the system is. By investigating the operating parameters of the system and fine tuning it every little bit of wastage can be eliminated

We believe in the old Chinese proverb 'waste nothing.... use everything from the chook including the claws'

When we examine a building we see so many resources that are wasted or systems that are inefficient. Water and steam pipes, pressure systems, thermal loads, fans, lighting, operational inefficiencies, rubbish, transport ,poor internal environment quality, poor building design including ventilation and overheating and the ubiquitous air cons systems that can make the integral comfort levels hellish.

One of our clients described their air conditioning system as 'psychotic'! That describes many air conditioning systems we see.

The main aim of our buildings is to provide comfort yet we don't do it very well.

Next time you pay a paper or water bill consider how much it is going to cost our business in three or five or ten years time .Think of how much you could be saving if the first thing you did on the road to sustainability is make your existing facilities more efficient.

Remember efficiency is free –ask for more!



Construction and Sustainability Consultants