THE ENERGY &WATER AGENCY

Malta Chamber of SMEs

AWARENESS IN MICRO SMES

PHARMACIES RECOMMENDATIONS

Energy & Water Agency | 2024

The intention of this communication is to present the **suggestions** derived from a series of energy and water awareness visits conducted at Pharmacies & Clinics. These audits aimed to **analyse energy usage** trends and patterns in these businesses, with the objective of identifying opportunities to **enhance energy efficiency**. The primary aim of these suggestions is to provide guidance on reducing energy usage, cutting operational expenses, and contributing to a business that is more ecologically responsible.

The significance of energy efficiency extends beyond **cost reduction**; it also encourages a sense of **conscientious** resource management among the staff. By integrating these suggestions, Pharmacies & Clinics can establish themselves as exemplars of **energy-aware practices** within their local community.

It's important to acknowledge that these suggestions aren't meant to be rigid mandates but rather **adaptable principles** that can be customised to suit the unique circumstances and priorities of each Pharmacy. Embracing these energy-conserving measures can bolster the facility's operational efficiency, shrink its **environmental impact**, and instil a culture of sustainability among all those involved.

EWA aspiration is that these recommendations empower the facility to craft a more vibrant, environmentally friendlier **future** for both its patrons and the larger community.

01

Switching To **LED Lighting**

While most Pharmacies & Clinics utilise LED lighting, a portion still relies on outdated lighting methods. It is advised to swap traditional incandescent or fluorescent light fixtures with **energy-efficient** LED bulbs.

LED lights consume **less electricity** and have a **longer operational life**.

02

Unplug Electronics When Not In Use

Encourage staff to unplug chargers, computers, and other electronics when they're not being used to **prevent "phantom" energy consumption**.

03

Size **Water Heaters** Cautiously And Set **Thermostats** Mindfully

Proper sizing of water heaters is recommended together with **maintaining temperatures** just above 60 degrees. Hot water does not appear to be in high demand despite its availability in nearly every visited pharmacy.

04

Regular HVAC **Maintenance**

Arrange regular maintenance appointments for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to guarantee their **optimal operation**. Clogged filters and improperly managed systems result in higher energy consumption.

05

Implement **Energy-Efficient** Appliances And **Switch Off** When Not Needed

Opt for appliances with **elevated energy efficiency** ratings when replacing items such as refrigerators, microwaves, or washing machines. Also, remember to **power down** appliances like water dispensers when they're not in use.

06

Set **AC Temperatures** Correctly

Set the air conditioning temperature **≥24°C for cooling** and **≤21°C for heating**.

07

Educate And **Involve** Everyone

Educate staff about the importance of **energy efficiency** and involve them in **energy-saving** initiatives.

08

Improve Your Skill In **Understanding** Your Utility Bill More Effectively

It has been noticed that property owners might encounter challenges while reviewing their utility bills. To ensure **effective management of energy costs**, it is important to have a clear understanding of the utility bill's components. These components are essential and should be given proper consideration.

Essential components encompass:

- **Billing Period**: timeframe of the bill.
- **Meter Readings**: start and end energy measurements.
- **Tariffs/Rates**: costs per unit of energy and bracketing.
- **Usage Comparison**: compare with past usage.

09

Reduce The Water Tap Flow

This can be done by **adjusting** the controlling water valve or by **installing aerators**. Aerators spread the stream of water into tiny droplets preventing splashing, saving water and increasing water pressure. Check for leaking taps, and **report/repair** accordingly.

10

Insulate

Since pharmacies are typically air-conditioned for extended periods due to their operational requirements, prioritizing **building insulation** becomes highly important. Effective insulation offers both energy and financial savings. Insulating offices that are regularly **climate-controlled** ensures a steady and comfortable indoor environment while reducing energy expenses. This promotes better employee productivity and lower energy usage. These benefits translate to **cost savings** and **environmental responsibility**, making insulation a crucial aspect of modern office design, especially for businesses like pharmacies that require consistent climate control.

11

Care With **Dehumidification**

Observations indicate that pharmacies commonly employ dehumidifiers within their stores. While we're not delving into the necessity aspect, it's important to exercise **caution** in this regard as they can consume a significant amount of energy. Dehumidifiers are designed to reduce excess moisture in the air, which can be particularly beneficial in damp environments or during humid seasons. However, their energy consumption can impact both your **electricity bills** and the **environment**.

To maximize energy efficiency while using dehumidifiers, consider the following tips:

- **Right Sizing**: choose a dehumidifier that is appropriately sized for the area you need to dehumidify. An oversized unit can lead to excessive energy consumption, while an undersized unit might not effectively manage humidity levels.
- **Energy Star**: opt for an Energy Star-certified dehumidifier. These units are designed to meet energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. They consume less energy while still providing effective dehumidification.
- **Timed Operation**: use timers or programmable settings to operate the dehumidifier only when necessary. Running it constantly, especially at high settings, can lead to unnecessary energy usage.
- **Maintenance**: keep the dehumidifier well-maintained by cleaning its filters regularly. Clogged filters can strain the unit's efficiency and lead to increased energy consumption.
- **Room Temperature**: use the dehumidifier in a room with a reasonable temperature. Operating it in extremely cold environments can force the unit to work harder and consume more energy.
- **Sealing**: ensure that doors and windows are properly sealed while the dehumidifier is running. This prevents outside humidity from entering the space and causing the unit to work harder.
- **Alternate Solutions**: consider using natural ventilation, exhaust fans, or simply opening windows on less humid days to reduce humidity levels before resorting to the dehumidifier.
- **Regular Checks**: monitor the humidity levels in the area and adjust the dehumidifier settings accordingly. Running it at a lower setting when the humidity is already under control can save energy.

Being mindful of these factors can help you strike a balance between maintaining indoor comfort and managing energy consumption when using dehumidifiers.

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