



Media Release

Monday, February 9th, 2015

NEW PROGRAM TO HELP BUSINESSES REDUCE ENERGY USAGE AND SAVE MONEY

Small and medium sized businesses in Launceston are being invited to participate in a new program which aims to save them money by reducing their environmental footprint.

The Energy Efficiency Program is a partnership between natural resource management organisation, NRM North, and the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, with funding from the Tasmanian Government.

The program was launched in Launceston today by Liberal Member for Bass, Sarah Courtney.

It offers businesses a free one hour on-site audit and consultation by Launceston energy experts EnergyBank, which is a subsidiary of CBM Sustainability Group.

The audit would include examination of energy consumption over a 12 month period including seasonal energy consumption profiles, tariff analysis and recommend changes which would result in cost savings to the business.

The audit would also identify whether the premises is suitable for solar power and/or solar hot water.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said small changes made by businesses could make a big difference.

“Replacing old light bulbs with energy saving models, making better use of natural light or increasing air conditioning thermostats by one degree in summer can make a big improvement to the cost of power bills over a year and reduce carbon pollution in the process.” Mr McKee said.

The Executive Officer of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, Maree Tetlow, said businesses had already expressed an interest in the program.

“We are encouraging businesses to take up this opportunity and book in for an hour energy audit. It is a simple process that can save you money and reduce energy usage.”

Launceston menswear store, Neil Pitt’s, is the first business to participate in the program.

The EnergyBank audit found that Neil Pitt's can reduce its energy usage through the replacement of old fluorescent and halogen lights with LED equivalents, and electric resistance heating with heat pumps or gas heating.

Neil Pitt's can also install a solar power system where its generation profile matches the building energy usage profile, therefore maximising the financial return of the system and offsetting up to one third of the total electricity use.

All energy efficiency opportunities are expected to provide a payback period of less than five years.

Andrew Pitt from Neil Pitt's said the audit was encouraging.

"It's rewarding to see that we're already quite good in terms of energy use, but also get clear and timely advice from EnergyBank about how we can improve further through more efficient lighting, space heating and investment in solar."

It's hoped around 20 businesses in Launceston would participate in the program.

Anyone wanting more information should contact NRM North or the Launceston Chamber of Commerce.

Ends

For more information contact:
Melissa Lewarn, Manager – Community Engagement & Communications, NRM North,
6333 7776 or 0427 354 058