

Everyday Sustainability

Energy Efficiency

Becoming more energy efficient in the way we run our organisations can be a great way to reduce our impact and emissions and the great news is that it often goes hand in hand with saving money too.

Right here in the Waikato we have lots of amazing organisations doing simple things to increase their energy efficiency and reduce their emissions.

Spellbound

Based in Waitomo, Spellbound is small family-owned business offering unique glow-worm cave tours. Cave lighting during the tours is kept to a minimum using the natural glow-worm light or a solar power lighting system. The simple act of turning lights on and off as they need them also reduces the amount of energy used.

After measuring their carbon footprint they also identified travel emissions as a key area of impact. Switching to an electric vehicle for transporting small groups of guests combined with a small tweak to their tour route has led to a significant reduction in the amount of travel and fuel required to get their visitors to where they need to be.

Hidden Lake Hotel

Hidden Lake Hotel & Apartments in Cambridge ensured energy efficiency was a major design consideration from the outset of the build. The building features a solar system on the large roof space, double glazing and insulation, and favours LED lighting and energy efficient appliances. This has significantly reduced the energy needs and impact of the building as well as reducing ongoing running costs. Any additional energy generated by the solar system is given back to the township of Cambridge.

Stark Property

Stark Property have co-working and event spaces in Hamilton. They've reduced their emissions by making it super easy to use alternative modes of transport. An electric van is the run around company vehicle, and they also have a number of e-bikes on hand for their central city based team and office tenants to use.

Tuakau Hotel

The historic Tuakau Hotel, located in North Waikato, is a 31-room hotel and conference venue that has implemented various initiatives to be more energy efficient. The installation of a three-phase hot water system has reduced both energy and water usage. All lighting is equipped with daylight sensors, and outdoor lights are regulated by timers which are adjusted seasonally. Their studio room apartments are also 95% self-sufficient through the use of solar energy.

When it comes to sustainability, it doesn't matter where you start or how small that start is, just take that first step and you will be amazed at how good it feels and how easily it becomes an everyday part of your business

