

Winter Energy Conservation: A Guide for Hotel Management



The Hidden Cost of Comfort

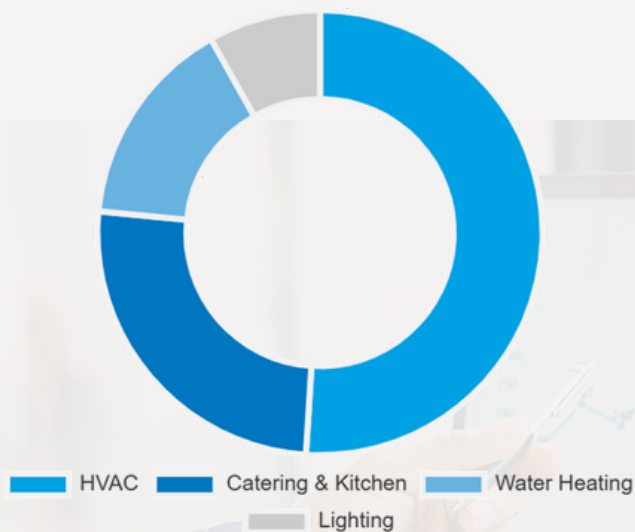
Uncovering the major sources of energy waste in the hotel industry and the simple steps to significant savings.

Heating & Hot Water Dominance:

70% A staggering portion of a hotel's energy bill is dedicated solely to keeping spaces and water warm.

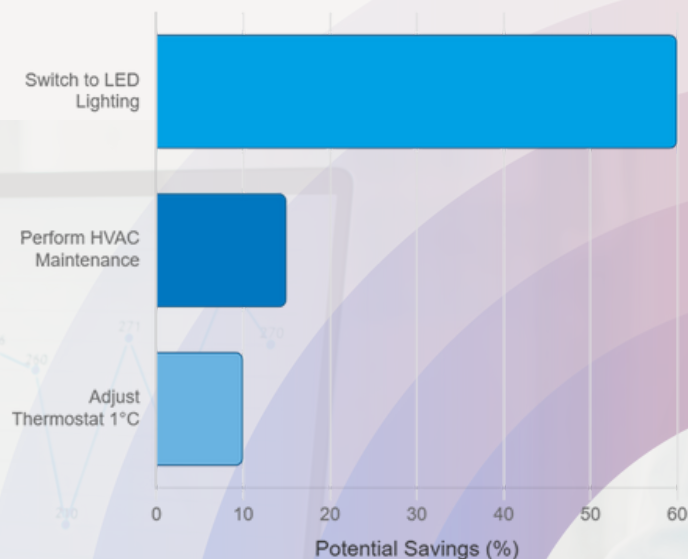
Where Does The Energy Go?

Understanding the breakdown of energy consumption is the first step toward effective management. HVAC systems are by far the largest single source of energy use.



Simple Changes, Big Impact

Significant savings don't always require massive investment. The following operational adjustments can drastically reduce energy bills and improve efficiency.



Unlock Your Savings Potential by 20-30%

By implementing a combination of these smart, energy-efficient practices, a typical hotel can reduce its overall energy consumption by this much, leading to substantial cost savings and a smaller carbon footprint.

How can we be more energy efficient?

With Christmas on the horizon there is always a draw on energy use from lighting and public displays to make your hotel more appealing to guests.

However, we can still look to try and be more efficient with our use of lighting while creating a good atmosphere for guests.

Energy-Saving Tips for Christmas Lights

- **Switch to LED lights:** This is the most effective way to save energy. LED Christmas lights use up to 80% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last much longer. This reduces not only your energy bill but also the waste from old bulbs.
- **Use Timers:** Put all your Christmas lighting on an automated timer. Instead of leaving lights on all night or relying on staff to remember to turn them off, a timer ensures lights are only on during peak viewing hours. This simple step can cut lighting costs by up to 50%.
- **Limit Display Hours:** Coordinate your lighting display with your hotel's busiest hours. For example, turn the lights on at dusk and have them turn off after the last staff member has left the public areas or a few hours before dawn.
- **Consider Solar-Powered Lights:** For outdoor decorations, look into solar-powered lights. They are completely off the grid and require no electricity from your hotel's power supply. While they may have a higher initial cost, they can lead to significant long-term savings.
- **Reduce the Scale of the Display:** While a grand display is a great way to attract guests, consider a more focused or smaller display. You could also mix in more natural decorations, such as wreaths and garlands, to reduce your reliance on lighting.

Winter presents a critical opportunity for hotels to significantly reduce operational costs and enhance sustainability. As energy prices tend to rise and consumption increases with colder temperatures, implementing strategic energy-saving measures is more important than ever. This guide provides actionable tips across key areas of hotel operations, focusing on both immediate savings and long-term investment.

How can we be more energy efficient?

1. Heating and HVAC Systems

Heating is typically the largest consumer of energy in a hotel during the winter months. Optimizing your HVAC system is the single most impactful step you can take.

- **Set Optimal Temperatures:** Establish a clear policy for thermostat settings. A recommended temperature range is between (20–21°C for occupied rooms and slightly lower for unoccupied areas).
- **Utilise Smart Thermostats:** Install programmable or smart thermostats in guest rooms and common areas. These can automatically adjust temperatures based on occupancy and pre-set schedules, preventing energy waste.
- **Perform Regular Maintenance:** Ensure your HVAC systems are operating at peak efficiency. This includes cleaning or replacing filters, checking for leaks in ductwork, and lubricating moving parts. A well-maintained system can be 10–15% more efficient.
- **Seal and Insulate:** Conduct a thorough audit to identify and seal drafts around windows, doors, and vents. Proper insulation in attics and walls is crucial for retaining heat and reducing the workload on your heating system.
- **Implement Zone Heating:** Use a zoned system to heat only the areas that are in use. For example, lower the heat in conference rooms or banquet halls when they are not booked.

How can we be more energy efficient?

2. Lighting Efficiency

Lighting, while a smaller energy draw than heating, still offers significant opportunities for savings.

- **Switch to LED Lighting:** Replace all traditional incandescent and fluorescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED alternatives. LEDs use up to 80% less energy and have a much longer lifespan, reducing maintenance costs.
- **Install Sensors and Timers:** Use motion sensors in hallways, restrooms, and storage closets to ensure lights are only on when a space is occupied. Timers are effective for outdoor lighting and signs.
- **Educate Staff:** Encourage staff to turn off lights when leaving a room or an area. Place simple reminders in high-traffic zones like break rooms or offices.

3. Water and Laundry Management

Hot water is a major energy expense. Reducing its consumption directly lowers the energy required for heating.

- **Insulate Hot Water Pipes:** Insulating pipes reduces heat loss as water travels from the boiler to the taps, meaning less energy is needed to keep the water hot.
- **Install Low-Flow Fixtures:** Replace standard showerheads and faucets with low-flow versions. These fixtures can save thousands of gallons of hot water annually without compromising guest comfort.
- **Promote Reusable Towel and Linen Programs:** Encourage guests to reuse towels and linens to reduce the frequency and energy usage of laundry cycles.
- **Repair Leaks Promptly:** A single leaky faucet can waste gallons of hot water per day. Establish a system for staff to report leaks immediately for quick repair.

How can we be more energy efficient?

4. Guest and Staff Engagement

Creating a culture of energy conservation among employees and guests can lead to substantial, collective savings.

- **Staff Training and Incentives:** Train all staff, from housekeeping to front desk, on energy-saving best practices. Consider a small incentive program for departments that meet or exceed energy reduction goals.
- **Informative Guest Communication:** Place tasteful, informative cards in guest rooms explaining the hotel's commitment to sustainability and gently encouraging guests to help by turning off lights or adjusting thermostats before they leave.

Daily Staff Checklist

This checklist can be used by hotel staff to ensure a proactive approach to energy conservation throughout the day.

- **Front Desk:**
 - Confirm all lights are off in meeting rooms and common areas after events have concluded.
 - Adjust thermostat settings in unoccupied rooms to the lower "standby" temperature.
 - When assigning rooms, try to group guests together to minimize the number of heating zones being used.
- **Housekeeping:**
 - Before cleaning, ensure all lights are off and the television is unplugged.
 - Adjust the thermostat to the unoccupied setting after servicing a room.
 - Report any drafts from windows or doors, as well as any dripping faucets or running toilets.
- **Maintenance:**
 - Check boiler room temperatures and verify pressure gauges are within the optimal range.
 - Perform a daily walk-through to check for and seal any visible drafts.
 - Regularly inspect and clean HVAC filters throughout the property.

How can we be more energy efficient?

5. Long-Term Investments

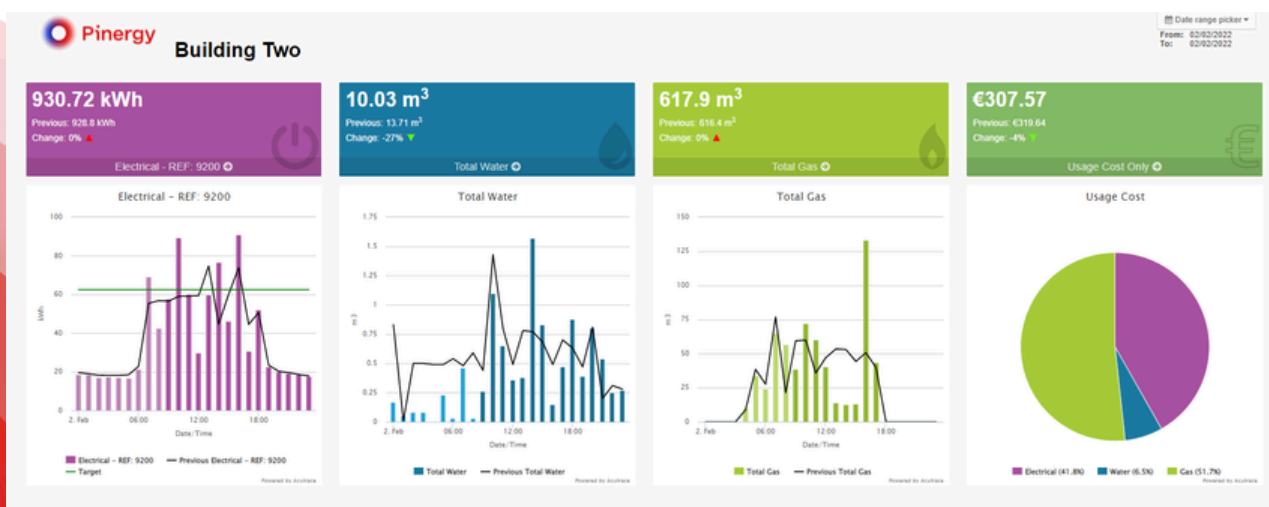
While some measures provide immediate savings, others require initial investment that yields significant long-term returns.

- **Energy-Efficient Windows:** Upgrading to double or triple-paned windows can drastically reduce heat loss and improve interior comfort, making your hotel more appealing to guests and saving on heating costs.
- **Building Management System (BMS):** A BMS centralizes control over all building systems (HVAC, lighting, security) and uses data to automate and optimize energy usage across the entire property.
- **Renewable Energy Sources:** Explore the feasibility of installing solar panels or other renewable energy systems. This can dramatically lower long-term energy costs and serve as a powerful marketing tool.

By systematically implementing these tips, your hotel can achieve significant cost savings, reduce its carbon footprint, and build a reputation as a leader in sustainability.

Measurement Equals Understanding

Pinergy can help you with metering, Solar, HVAC Efficiency, energy audits, and our Acutrace software can put all your info into one place to more easily manage your data.



For more advice on how Pinergy might help your business contact:



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