

ENERGY SAVINGS SCHEME

Energy Saver Information Sheet

Commercial Lighting Activities

1 General Information

1.1 What is the Energy Savings Scheme?

The NSW Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) reduces electricity consumption in NSW by creating financial incentives for organisations to invest in energy savings projects. Energy savings are achieved by installing, improving or replacing energy savings equipment.

Commercial lighting upgrades are an eligible activity in the ESS. The energy savings from the lighting upgrade being proposed at your commercial premises can be calculated using the Commercial Lighting Formula (clause 9.4 of the ESS Rule).

1.2 What is an ACP?

Organisations can participate voluntarily in the ESS by becoming an Accredited Certificate Provider (ACP). ACPs implement energy savings projects and create energy savings certificates (ESCs).

ACPs sell ESCs, usually to Scheme Participants such as electricity retailers who surrender ESCs to meet their energy savings targets under the ESS. Being able to profit from the sale of ESCs creates the financial incentive for organisations to apply to become an ACP.

All ACPs are responsible for their own business operations. ACPs and the energy saving activities they undertake are not funded or subsidized by the NSW Government, or the ESS.

1.3 The Original Energy Saver

The energy savings from an energy savings project belong to the person responsible for paying the electricity bill at the premises where the energy savings activity takes place - we call them the 'original energy saver'. Participation in the ESS as an original energy saver is voluntary.

1.4 Making a Nomination

Original energy savers can transfer the rights to the energy savings from an energy savings activity such as a lighting upgrade to an ACP – this is called a ‘nomination’. Ordinarily, an ACP will offer to carry out energy savings activities for an original energy saver at reduced cost in return for a nomination. The ACP may then use the energy savings to create and sell ESCs to offset the cost of the activity.

If you wish to nominate an ACP as the new energy saver, you will be asked to complete a nomination form and to sign a declaration.

1.5 What benefits does the original energy saver receive?

Original Energy Savers will generally benefit from lower electricity bills due to the reduction in electricity consumption resulting from the upgrade to efficient lighting technology. Original energy savers may also receive additional benefits from ACPs such as free or reduced price products and/or installations.

2 What to consider if you are offered a lighting upgrade.

Replacing lighting equipment with more energy efficient lighting equipment is one way ACPs can generate energy savings and create ESCs. You may be approached by an ACP or by a third party working for, or in conjunction with, an ACP with a proposal for a lighting upgrade at your premises.

In order to create ESCs from a lighting upgrade, an ACP must collect evidence of the type of equipment that was removed and the type of equipment that replaced it. They may also wish to claim that the lights operate for longer than the standard operating hours and will need to collect evidence to support this.

The maintenance of light levels is also a key requirement, as energy savings cannot be claimed where they result in a reduction in lighting output or service levels. Testing is carried out to ensure that the new lighting configuration meets relevant lighting standards.

In addition to meeting relevant lighting standards, the lighting upgrade must be fit for purpose. This means that the lighting upgrade must be suitable for the situation in which it will be used. Before agreeing to a lighting upgrade, you should be satisfied that the ACP, or ACP’s representative, has considered the specific lighting needs you may require for your business premises. You may wish to ask about their qualifications or experience in the lighting industry, or ask for a demonstration of the lighting equipment being proposed.

3 Who to contact about your lighting upgrade

If you agree to a proposed lighting upgrade by an ACP, your first point of contact for issues relating to the upgrade should be the ACP, or the ACP's representative that you are working with. Once the work has been completed, you should ensure that you keep a copy of the nomination form you have signed, as the nomination form lists the contact details of the ACP responsible for your lighting upgrade. If you have not yet signed a nomination form, you should ensure that you have the contact details of the ACP or representative who has provided you with this information sheet.

3.1 Product failure or performance reduction

If a product fails prematurely (before the product lifetime has expired) or reduces in function (e.g. light levels of a lamp drop or the colour changes noticeably, or a product stops working) you should contact the ACP to give them the opportunity to resolve the issue. If it is still not resolved, you should contact the **Consumer, Trader & Tenancy - Consumer Claims division** of NSW Fair Trading on 1300 135 399 or visit www.cttt.nsw.gov.au for further information.

3.2 Your rights as a consumer

The NSW Energy Savings Scheme accredits ACPs to undertake energy savings activities under the Scheme. However, the Scheme does not certify or provide verification of the ACP's professional standards or in any way provide assurance over the quality or appropriateness of the lighting products installed by the ACP. As a consumer, you should take all due care to ensure that the products being installed in your premises are appropriate to your needs.

For more information on your rights as a consumer, please contact the **Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC)** on 1300 302 502 or visit www.accc.gov.au.

4 Further information about the ESS

For more information about the ESS, please refer to the ESS website at:

www.ess.nsw.gov.au/Home

Questions regarding scheme compliance can be forwarded to:

ess_compliance@ipart.nsw.gov.au