

# CASE STUDY

## Grants & Funding

### Maitland City Council

#### BACKGROUND

Energy Action reduced Maitland Council's energy costs by \$55,000 per annum

Maitland City Council, near the Hunter Valley in New South Wales, is home to 67, 478 people spread across an area of 390.2 square kilometres. With 202 individual sites to power, energy is one of Council's top five operating costs.

Since 2009, Maitland City Council has worked with Energy Action to reduce energy costs. Using Energy Action's Australian Energy Exchange (AEX) service, which encourages suppliers to competitively bid for an organisation's energy contract, the Council has reduced energy costs by \$55,000 per annum.

Energy Action's Australian Energy Exchange service reduced these costs, while simplifying the process of securing contracts for Council's many sites and facilities which range from street lighting to community halls and sporting complexes.

Impressed with the results, the Council recently contracted Energy Action's Projects & Advisory Services team, to assist with the development of a grant application to secure funding under the Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) for 38 energy efficient projects across the region.

Maitland Council selected Energy Action to partner in the process which required a complete audit of Council's current facilities, energy use and potential improvements.

#### OPPORTUNITY

To reduce energy costs on a long term basis, the Council worked with Energy Action to develop a funding proposal under the Federal Government's Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP). CEEP is a competitive merit-based grant program to support local councils and community organisations improve the energy efficiency.



## Case Study: Maitland City Council

In 2011, 'Maitland 2012' was launched a 10 year strategic plan which included a commitment to enhance the natural environment. Under the auspices of this plan, the Council was committed to reducing its carbon footprint and improving energy efficiency long term, however funding assistance was required to undertake the necessary projects.

"We first heard about the CEEP grants from the Federal Member for Newcastle and decided to apply for funding to assist with a number of initiatives we had already considered, yet hadn't budgeted for," said Teresa Chadwick, Business and Information Specialist for Maitland City Council.

To assist with the development of the comprehensive CEEP funding proposal, the Council invited tenders from a number of energy specialists. They selected Energy Action to partner in the process which required a complete audit of Council's current facilities, energy use and potential improvements.

Cost savings of \$107,629 per annum will be achieved over the lifetime of the project

### OUTCOME

The three month process identified 38 individual energy efficiency projects ranging from upgraded lighting to solar hot water, 'Skycool' roof paint, improved air conditioning and cool room replacements at key facilities in the region.

The lighting projects alone will reduce that component of the energy consumption by as much as 67 per cent while the other projects will reduce overall consumption by 33 per cent. Cost savings of \$107,629 per annum will be achieved over the lifetime of the project, with the initial investment delivering savings in energy costs after four years.

"Council taking the lead and spreading the word about energy saving initiatives will encourage the community to take action in this area," Chadwick said.

Maitland City Council was delighted to be awarded \$646,607 under the CEEP grant project. The result will make the projects a reality. The engagement of a consultant with experience in this area put the council in a strong position to secure funding, according to Chadwick.

"Working with Energy Action was a positive experience. Our central contact from Energy Action went above and beyond to ensure Council put its best foot forward with its application. The Sustainability team were a pleasure to deal with and our key contact at Energy Action was a very professional project manager."

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Teresa Chadwick, Business and Information Specialist for Maitland City Council.