



Reducing Global Warming Activities



Energy Audits

An energy audit is an inspection survey of the energy model of a particular building or organization. It is a detailed survey of the energy performance of a building.

While it would be preferable to have an external auditor perform the audit, you can perform a rudimentary audit of the energy demands of the organization yourself.

There are multiple benefits to carrying out an energy audit. The top operating expenses faced by any organization are energy, labour and material resources. Out of these, changes in energy consumption patterns would lead to the most potential cost savings. An energy audit can provide an orientation towards energy cost reductions, preventive maintenance and quality control programs.

Before conducting the audit, do analyse the previously existing electricity usage data i.e. go through the electricity bills of the previous years and determine the consumption patterns.

While performing the audit, ensure that you are thorough, and have a checklist to ensure appropriate checks. You can refer to our external resources sheet for the reference checklist. If you have a larger organization, you can split the members into groups and they can perform the audit in a specific location!

Whether you have performed the audit yourself, or via an external auditor, determining the next steps to take is your

prerogative. Once you have a list of potential changes to make to your organization, immediately develop a strategy to implement them. If you feel that there are too many changes to make, which is making the process cost – prohibitive, implement the desired changes in phases. Remember that while it may be an additional cost to carry out these changes, in the long run, it will cut down on your electricity consumption costs.

Implementation of Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is generated from renewable sources, which will replenish themselves on a human time scale. Renewable energy sources are generally non-polluting, and hence, the obvious answer to problems associated with traditional, polluting methods of energy generation.

While performing an energy audit to optimize energy use is a good start, implementation of renewable energy within the organization is a far more substantial step to take in the bid if reducing global warming.

Currently, solar energy is the most feasible renewable energy option for implementation at an organizational level.

Since implementing renewable energy in any capacity at an organization is a process that will involve more substantial changes, getting the conversation started becomes an important step. Speak to members of your organization, and understand the public perception of your goal.

energy consumption you would like to offset. Even in the latest solar technologies, it is not currently possible to run an entire operation only on solar energy.

Once you have a go-ahead, research the various solar energy options available to you. Speak to the organizations, and determine a budget for the solar installation. Look into various means of funding to raise the cost for the same. Try and avail government subsidies for the project, should there be any available.

Waste Audits

A waste audit is a methodically thought out process which can be used to determine the amount and types of waste that are generated by your organization. Information from these audits can help you and your organization to determine how you can reduce the amount of waste that your company generates. A waste audit will enable you to determine your organizations waste generation patterns, and provide a baseline data that will enable you to then reduce waste generation by the organization.

Before you conduct you audit, ensure that there are provisions in place to ensure the safety of the participants. Obtain necessary equipment such as masks, gloves, waste bins.

Plan the audit and determine the area carefully. Having a well thought out plan in place can ensure a smoothly progressing audit. Also ensure that all of the participating members are well aware of all the objectives for carrying

the audit.

Collection of waste and sorting of waste will take the bulk of your time, so ensure that the categories for segregation are well defined.

The most important step of an audit comes in after an audit has been completed. Analysing the data to determine trends in your waste habit is the most essential step of an audit. Analyse the collective data to determine a comprehensive strategy for waste management. If you are willing, share your findings with other members of the organization for their suggestions.

While determining your waste management strategy and goals, ensure that your plan isn't too unambitious, neither is it untenable. Create waste management goals that you feel are achievable, and strive to fulfil those.

Tree Plantation Drives & Comprehensive afforestation strategies.

Tree plantation drives are all the rage in environmental causes. It is often an easy solution for a corporate or government body to complete their required quota of environmental activities. However, conducting a successful tree plantation drives is far more difficult than one would think, and has multiple factors that have to be taken into consideration.

The first thing to recognize while conducting a tree plantation drive is that it is incorrectly named. We aren't

going to be planting trees but saplings. The next thing to realize is that a tree plantation is not an activity to be conducted in a single day, the saplings have to be protected and nurtured to ensure that they grow into trees.

Only if these two things are taken into account, can a tree plantation drive be successful. The objective of a tree plantation drive is increase the forest cover. However, an unplanned and negligent drive is not going to achieve that, it will only lead to loss of time and resources. Certainly there are incidents beyond anyone's control that can contribute to a tree planting failure. Random weather conditions for example being one. However, there are a far greater number of factors totally within human control that contribute to tree planting failures.

The first decision to be made is to determine the location of the tree plantation. A location that already supports some form of vegetation is ideal. There should also be a nearby waterbody. While it is a good idea on the surface to carry out tree plantation in an area that is away from human settlement, there won't be ultimately anybody to take care of the saplings. It is also necessary to take precaution that the land is not accessible to grazing animals, as they will destroy the plantation before it has a chance.

Another important factor while planning a tree plantation drive is to choose the time of the plantation with care. While one may be inclined to conduct a tree plantation drive aligning with international environmental dates, it is necessary to pick a date that has feasible weather to support

the growth of trees. If the weather during the time of your tree plantation is too hot, the saplings will die due to heat, even if watered regularly, and if the weather is extremely cold, they will succumb to frost. the right time for a plantation drive is at the start of monsoons or in autumn in warmer regions. In places of heavy rainfall roots are spoiled due to too much water.

The decision of utmost importance is the choice of trees. It is necessary to pick trees that are indigenous to the area, and not an exotic species. It is also necessary to pick a diverse variety of trees or saplings. Monocultures are infinitely more susceptible to disease. One should also consider factors such as the sturdiness of the plant species, resistance to disease as well as climate. All delicate and fruit bearing trees should be planted in an area protected from cattle and close to a water source. Trees like Acacia manage in very hot and dry climate and are not eaten by animals. They are considered invading species as their saplings grow even in an asphalted area. These are ideal for urban areas and highway. These trees absorb a lot of dust.

Green Teams

Green teams can be groups of faculty, staff, administrative members and students who can volunteer to take specific actions to help their organization operate in a more efficient, innovative and environmentally friendly way. Asking members having an inclination towards environmental action to oversee the environmental strategy of an organization can be immensely successful.

Creating a green team within your organization can lead to enormous benefits. Having a dedicated team, responsible towards fulfilling the organizations sustainability goals will lead to better results as opposed to an ad hoc approach. A streamlined team with a singular approach will yield better results.

A green team also will increase member engagement. One of the simplest ways of recruiting members to a green team is simply let the members know about the idea of starting a green team, and then asking interested volunteers to sign up for the same. It is essential that the purpose, roles and responsibilities and hours of the green team are well defined, enabling members to correctly gauge what they are signing up for. In a larger organization, having clearly defined roles is also a good idea.

Ideally, you should allow people to self-select, however if you aren't getting the desired response, you may actively recruit people for the same. In a larger organization, try to ensure that all of the departments are equally represented.

Ensure that the Green team has access to resources that they may require to ensure its success. Share with them the environmental commitments taken by the organization and inform them of the environmental goals of the organization.

Carbon Footprints & Carbon Reduction Strategies

Developing a carbon reduction strategy for an organization can be a daunting task, especially if you lack the specific

strategy is to clarify your goals. However, before this, it is necessary to calculate and analyse the carbon footprint of the organization, to determine patterns of carbon use.

A carbon footprint is historically defined as the total emissions caused by an individual, event or organization, expressed as a CO₂ equivalent. Your carbon footprint is the sum of all emissions of CO₂ (carbon dioxide), which were induced by your activities in a given time frame. Usually a carbon footprint is calculated for the time period of a year.

While calculating the carbon footprint is not an exact science, there are many tools readily available online, that can enable you to estimate your carbon footprint. This can enable you to develop a carbon reduction strategy.

If your budget allows it, hire an external expert to calculate your organizations carbon footprint, and devise a carbon reduction strategy. If you cannot afford to do so, you can calculate and devise the strategy internally. Remember, carbon management is an interdisciplinary effort and ensure that you allow for input from every facet of your organization while devising your strategy. Always keep a goal in place, and ensure that the goal is achievable.

Re Evaluate your strategy yearly, and update it. The ultimate goal for any organization is to be a zero carbon organization.