

## Case study – Tamburlaine Wines



# How Australia's largest organic wine producer will halve its power bill

Mark Davidson, the managing director of Tamburlaine Wines, thought he had misheard his environment manager when an energy audit of its Hunter Valley operations revealed how much money the winery could save each year. But there was no mistake.

By making some practical, targeted changes to how it uses electricity, Tamburlaine could reduce its annual consumption by more than half – a saving of about 700 megawatt hours, almost 740 tonnes of carbon pollution, and more than \$110,000. Better still, payback would be less than two years.

'The consequence for our business is not just feeling better about pumping 740 tonnes less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year, but also what this is worth to our bottom line,' says Davidson. 'And it was easy.'

Tamburlaine is one of many businesses throughout NSW taking advantage of Energy Saver, delivered by the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH).

The Program offers a subsidised energy audit and free technical support to help businesses measure and understand their energy use, cut power bills and reduce carbon pollution. The audit, conducted by an independent energy specialist, provides a business case with payback periods and a practical implementation plan.

Tamburlaine's site at Pokolbin consists of 13 hectares of vineyards, a modern winery, warehouses, cellar door, office and function centre. The company employs about 25 people on an equivalent full-time

### In brief

Tamburlaine Wines in the Hunter Valley is one of the many businesses throughout NSW that are realising the benefits of being energywise. Following a subsidised audit Tamburlaine was surprised at what the business could achieve.

By getting information from energy specialists about specific areas of its energy use, Tamburlaine made targeted investments at its winery that have pleased everyone – the managing director, the environment manager, and many employees dedicated to the philosophy of sustainable business.

### Results

- Annual reduction in carbon pollution of about 740 tonnes
- Electricity use cut by about 700 megawatt hours each year
- Annual savings of more than \$110,000
- Return on investment in less than two years



- basis. The winery hours are normally 7am to 6pm but during the three months around vintage it can operate 24 hours per day.

The major area of savings for Tamburlaine is in refrigeration which accounts for about 75 per cent of its electricity use.

'As a winery, we have large refrigeration equipment that tends to run unmonitored all year round,' says Davidson. 'It surprised me when the analysis came in that we had the capacity to conserve that amount of electricity. I knew instinctively there were things we should be doing. It's only when you have the chance to lift your head from the day-to-day issues that you can discover a lot about your operation.'

Simple things – running time and thermostat controls, upgrading heat exchangers, modifications to pipes, and improvements to the vineyard's compressor rack control system – are just some of the ways Tamburlaine is saving money on refrigeration and enhancing its already impressive green credentials.

Davidson says the biggest difficulty for many business managers is finding time away from day-to-day matters to investigate changes within their operation. He says the OEH Program was the trigger that allowed Tamburlaine to break some old and wasteful energy habits.

'Getting professionals to look at specific areas of energy use enabled us to make extremely well-informed decisions about where we should invest money to achieve the best return,' Davidson says.

'Small businesses say that they don't have enough specific information, and they don't have time to get it. This is true.

'Every business person knows you've got to have good information to make good decisions. If I can see payback and I can see the consequences of a sound investment I can make those decisions. In too many small businesses, people make decisions off the cuff and for the wrong reasons. We got a depth of information through Energy Saver which allowed us to make the right decisions for the right reasons.

'The refrigeration engineer we work with and the energy consultant from OEH said we are not unusual. Like many other businesses, we were spending way too much on energy.

'We now have the chance to save serious money, reduce our carbon footprint, and in our own small way increase our contribution to the fight against global warming. It's a no-brainer.'

### Your next step

To find out how your business can access support contact the Energy Saver team

**Email** [energysaver@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:energysaver@environment.nsw.gov.au)

**Call** 1300 361 967

**Visit** [environment.nsw.gov.au/business](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/business)