



How Buddy Ohm is helping reduce energy consumption by 44% in the Buddy Adelaide office.

Ohm at home

Buddy Platform stock (BUD) floated on the Australian Stock Exchange in November 2015, and quickly secured a centrally located office in the city of Adelaide, South Australia.

Buddy's new office in Adelaide met every requirement. At 355 square meters, the office was large enough to accommodate the existing team of software and hardware engineers as well as expected new staff members. There was space to set up specialist computing equipment and an area for testing computer hardware. The office was also conveniently located within Adelaide's CBD

and well fit-out with industrial-styled furniture, lighting and accessories.

There was only one issue with this new office — the enormous energy bills received in the first year of operations.

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Taking stock—how is energy being used in this office?

It took some time for energy costs to become an urgent priority given the team at Buddy was heavily focused on product and customer development.

The unexpectedly high quarterly \$6500 bill in mid-2016 was a catalyst for paying greater attention to energy consumption. As a growing company, it was important to take urgent steps to manage and reduce these costs.

Energy Efficiency in a Commercial Office Building

Buddy was just one of many tenants in a single commercial office building, with limited access to energy consumption and central systems data. Quarterly utility bills did not provide the granularity or insight required to reduce energy consumption.

Working collaboratively with the landlord, the Buddy team deployed an initial stage Buddy Ohm system in early 2017 to identify some of the most energy-hungry systems within the office. Data generated by Buddy Ohm enabled the team to develop an energy baseline for the office, and from there, energy reduction targets.

The ease of installation, and the fact that Buddy Ohm sat on top of existing office infrastructure helped to alleviate any of the landlord's concerns about making permanent changes to the building. Better still, Buddy Ohm provided the landlord with access to new energy consumption data for a range of shared spaces, including the lobbies and lifts.

Putting Buddy Ohm to work

Within the Buddy office, Buddy Ohm provided the team with a greater understanding of how the office used energy throughout the day and work week. Different sensors allowed the team to break down energy consumed by lighting, heating and cooling, and computing equipment. In addition to energy consumption data, sensors were installed to monitor temperature and humidity in different parts of the office.

With this understanding, it was possible to make immediate changes, including:

- **Adjusting and monitoring the office HVAC system.** Maximizing Adelaide's temperate climate, it was possible to use the fresh-air cycle (vs air conditioning) for the better part of the year. This has had additional benefits in better maintaining office temperatures on the eastern and western sides of the office.
- **Increasing the temperature in the computer room from 19 to 23 Celsius.** This change is more than adequate to maintain IT systems in security and comfort, without turning the space into a fridge.
- **Implementing energy savings communications and encouraging behavior change.** Sharing updates at team meetings, and displaying the energy consumption data in real time, using the Buddy Ohm dashboard, was transformational in encouraging and reminding people to turn lights and appliances off. Buddy was also able to work with cleaning and security staff to ensure they followed energy savings procedures. Making better use of office blinds, for example, pulling them down in the evening to shield hot morning sun on the eastern side of the office, has meant that the office is not as hot in the summer mornings.



One of Buddy's occupant facing dashboards.

Reinvesting the savings

Since we deployed Buddy Ohm, the results were more significant than expected.

- Buddy is on track to reduce annual energy spend by 44% (2017 as compared to 2016)
- For a small technology company, this has had a big financial impact. Buddy has been able to reduce monthly energy spend by \$571 AUD, with a projected total saving of nearly \$7000 in 2017.
- These results were achieved despite business and operational growth, adding more team members to the office, and energy prices going up in the interim period.

Nothing is going to stop us now!

- The Buddy Ohm system has allowed a more granular understanding of how energy was being used in the office.
- As the saying goes, you can't manage what you can't measure. Granular data has enabled energy usage insights and to actively manage, monitor and reduce energy consumption in the Buddy Adelaide office.