

Irrigators \$aving on energy costs

Growers and consumers alike have long taken for granted plentiful supplies of energy at a reasonable price. However, increasing energy bills have led to rethinking the energy situation.

Big savings have been witnessed throughout the Burdekin, as part of Energy Efficiency Gains for Australian Irrigators program.

BBIFMAC is thrilled with the way the program is going and the high level of participation. Growers have been very enthusiastic in adopting proactive ways of thinking to consider cost-cutting measures.

- Several farmers have reported potential savings of \$8,000 per year and beyond, based on a simple tariff change.
- Pump assessments have triggered farmers to review their pumping inefficiencies and infrastructure, resulting in refits or refurbishments.



Workshop participants involved in the Energy Efficiency Gains for Australian Irrigators program

This week has seen the start of a collection of small grower workshops to demonstrate/discuss results and options from the initial energy benchmarking exercise. Workshops are bringing much enthusiasm and generating plenty of discussion between participants. Participating growers, who have provided BBIFMAC with complete data, will be contacted over the next month to take part in a workshop session.

The program has also been busy conducting pumping and irrigation assessments. Some interesting information has come out of these, and will be made available for public viewing. Unfortunately the program can only fund a number of assessments, however if you would like more information we are happy to assist.

Training of local extension/industry workers is continuing in the region. The training participants have been involved with the pumping assessments as well. By providing quality practical experience, their skills will be available and accessible to growers after the life of the program.

Resources and information are now available on our website!

Visit <http://eegai.nceastg.usq.edu.au/eegai/> for all your energy efficiency needs!

The website holds plenty of energising information, from factsheets and videos to news articles and presentations. We are actively updating the site, so be sure to check regularly for more exciting stories and resources.

It's not too late to get involved! Contact the BBIFMAC office on 4783 4344 for more information.

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