Cutting the cost of energy - Northmore Gordon

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Details:

Cutting the cost of energy

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This 2018 Northmore Gordon article argued that state energy-savings schemes can lower the upfront cost of efficient equipment while reducing electricity use and bills. Its scheme totals, certificate prices, targets and project savings were reported for that period. They should be read as historical examples, not current eligibility, market prices or a forecast for a new site.

What the article examined

The original discussion brought together then-available results from schemes in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and the ACT. It compared participation, upgrades, electricity savings and estimated customer bill impacts, then argued that demand-side efficiency should have a larger place in energy policy. The article also distinguished prescribed or deemed activities, where a scheme method estimates savings from a defined upgrade, from project-based methods that require site-specific measurement and verification. These remain useful categories for asking questions, but the applicable methods and evidence rules must be checked against today's scheme documents.

The examples covered car-park ventilation control, council street lighting, commercial HVAC and industrial fans. They illustrate how equipment, controls and operational patterns affect savings and how certificates can support an investment case. The financial figures in those cases are source-reported historical results; a different building, load profile, product, tariff or contract can produce a different outcome. Read the original 2018 article for its complete claims and original attributions.

Applying the lesson to a current project

Begin with an energy audit or a defined baseline that identifies the load, operating hours and options. Separate expected engineering savings from any scheme-recognised saving, estimated certificate quantity, assumed sale price and net customer proceeds. Before investment or installation, ask an accredited provider which jurisdiction, activity and current rule version apply, whether a baseline or other evidence must be captured first, and who owns the certificates. An old case study does not establish eligibility for a new project.

For current pathways, see government schemes , certificate services and measurement and verification . Contact Northmore Gordon with the site, equipment, energy data and project stage if you want the technical and commercial questions scoped.

What was the main finding of the 2018 'Cutting the cost of energy' article?

The article argued that state energy-savings schemes were helping households and businesses undertake efficiency upgrades and reduce electricity use. Its aggregate participation, saving and bill figures reflected information available in October 2018. They are historical, not a current scheme result or a guaranteed outcome for a new project.

Which jurisdictions did the 2018 analysis discuss?

The article discussed schemes operating in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and the ACT at the time. Each jurisdiction uses its own activities, units, methods and evidence rules. A current project needs the rule version and accredited-provider assessment for its location and implementation date.

What types of upgrade did the article use as examples?

It described car-park ventilation controls, council street lighting, commercial HVAC and industrial fan upgrades. Those examples show that equipment selection, control strategy and operating conditions matter. Their reported savings and incentive amounts belong to the original projects and should not be applied to another site without analysis.

What is the difference between a prescribed and a project-based savings method?

A prescribed or deemed activity uses a defined scheme method for a specified upgrade. A project-based method usually depends on site-specific baseline and post-upgrade evidence, often including measurement and verification. The exact terms, eligibility and evidence requirements depend on the current scheme and method, so the 2018 article is a starting point for questions rather than authority for today's claim.

How should a business use the article's historical savings figures?

Treat them as period-specific reported or modelled examples. For a present investment case, document the site's baseline, modelled engineering saving, any scheme-recognised quantity, estimated certificates, assumed price and net customer proceeds separately. Verify each assumption with current tariff data, equipment specifications and an accredited provider.

Where should a current project start?

Start with an energy audit or a defined technical baseline, then compare feasible upgrades and operating impacts. Check the current state scheme, activity and evidence requirements before implementation. Northmore Gordon's energy-audits, measurement-and-verification, government-schemes and certificate pages provide related guidance; an accredited provider confirms a specific certificate pathway.