

Energy studies & audits

Frequently asked questions

1. What's the difference between an Energy Study and an Energy Audit?

ENERGY AUDITS

An energy audit is a high-level investigation that identifies systems or practices that offer the most efficient, cost-effective upgrade opportunities in your facility. During the audit you'll learn about your facility's energy consumption, and tips on low- and no-cost upgrades that you can do right away.

Our energy audit program is called the Plant Wide Audit. This high level investigation is intended for a wide range of plant sizes. It's a great place to start if you want to see where you are consuming energy and which system upgrades would make the biggest impact.

ENERGY STUDY

A study is a detailed analysis of the specific system in your facility. We offer two types of studies:

1. End Use Assessment

This assessment is a pre-screen to identify whether a more intensive and costly study, such as an Energy Efficiency Feasibility Study, is worth conducting to confirm the energy saving potential of the system.

2. Energy Efficiency Feasibility Study

This study takes an in-depth analysis of a specific system. An end report will outline energy saving estimates, implementation costs, and other benefits that will help you build the business case to move forward with an upgrade project.

2. Why should I do an audit or a study?

If you're new to energy efficiency or aren't sure where to start, an audit will help you find out where to begin. A study may be the right place to start if you already know which system(s) you'd like to upgrade and are looking to analyze the energy saving opportunities in detail.

3. How do I decide which study or audit offer is best for me?

If you're still not sure where to start, talk with your Key Account Manager or Business Energy Advisor. Otherwise, call us at 604 522 4713 (Lower Mainland) or 1 866 522 4713 (elsewhere in B.C.) and we can help you decide which option is best for you.

4. How much are these audits worth?

Audit costs range from \$3000 and up. Our funding offers range from 75–100% of the total cost (certain restrictions apply).

5. If I do a study or an audit, will I be pressured into following recommendations?

You're free to choose whether to follow the recommendations made in a study or audit. However, certain studies & audits will only receive full funding if you follow up with the recommendations. If you choose not to, 25% of the cost would be reimbursed back to us.

6. How much time will I have to devote to the process?

An energy expert will be responsible for performing the study and/or audit, and will provide you with a report. The process is designed to be as easy as possible for you; however, you will be responsible for the following:

- Choosing the study or audit that's right for you and working with your Key Account Manager or Business Energy Advisor to apply for funding.
- Selecting an energy expert to do the study or audit—we can provide you with a list of qualified energy experts if needed.
- Scheduling the time for the study or audit at your facility and, if needed, providing a staff member to accompany the energy expert(s).
- Once the study/audit is complete, you'll need to schedule some time (~1 hour) to be debriefed on the findings.

7. Who pays the auditor?

You have the option of a traditional or direct payment method:

Traditional: You pay the bill for the study/audit, and then submit paid invoices to us for reimbursement.

Direct: The consultant submits their invoice to us, and we'll pay the invoice on your behalf.

8. Can I choose the consultant?

It's up to you to select the consultant or vendor you want for your project. You don't need to submit quotes to us. All we ask is that the consultant meets the minimum criteria required for all BC Hydro projects. If the consultant is registered with the Alliance of Energy Professionals, then they already meet these criteria; if not, they must submit their criteria for our review and approval.