



Style and energy conservation match up for Braemar on Parliament St

Braemar on Parliament Street, a boutique bed and breakfast located in Auckland's CBD, completed a TEEP Energy Audit in September 2008. Based in a 1901 restored Edwardian townhouse, the Braemar on Parliament St building has the advantage of having thick outer walls which provide a degree of insulation against both cold in the winter and heat in summer.



John and Susan Sweetman, owners and hosts of Braemar on Parliament St, are environmentalists, and keen to save energy. "It was good to get expert advice and check that what we're doing is on the right track," John said.

Energy to Braemar on Parliament St is supplied by both electricity and natural gas at a cost for the year ended August 2008 of \$4,934 for electricity and \$909 for gas. Refrigeration, heating and lighting are the main electrical energy consumers while natural gas, which has a significantly smaller energy and cost, is used for cooking and water heating.

Despite the business's good rating on the Energy Management Scorecard, the audit highlighted ways of saving \$994 per year - 17% of annual energy costs.

The audit's recommendation to replace the inefficient incandescent lamps that are hidden in uplights and lampshades was actioned straight away and will save the Sweetmans \$562 annually.



A restorer and renovator, John is investigating an alternative solution to the audit's recommendation to replace the high water flow rate shower heads upstairs.

"It's important for us to keep the heritage look and it wasn't possible to get low water flow shower heads that are in keeping with the brassware in the bathrooms," says John.

The Sweetmans don't want to compromise on their guests' enjoyment of a great shower. However, collecting rain water to use in the bathrooms, washing machines and dishwasher could provide a win-win situation and enable the Sweetmans to save on Auckland's costly water meter charges too.

"The audit process was a positive experience" said Sue Sweetman, "They were terrific guys who were very helpful and it has been useful for us to determine how we can make energy savings."