What we learnt

Agriculture Victoria in partnership with the Victorian Farmers Federation, conducted a survey to better understand on-farm energy consumption, cost structures and barriers to investing in energy efficient technologies. 215 farmers completed the survey and this data has shaped the development of the Agriculture Energy Investment Plan, ensuring it meets industry needs.

What are the main energy-related concerns for farmers?

Cost of energy was the number one concern

for 75% of gas users, 66% of diesel users, and 59% of electricity users

Reliability was also a concern

for 35% of electricity users and 21% of diesel users

What are the biggest barriers to decreasing on-farm energy costs?

73.5%

Highup-front cost of investment

63.2%

Low return on investment

31.8%

Unsure of how to choose appropriate technologies

28.2%

Technology changes too quickly

27.7%

Unsure of how to implement appropriate technologies

10.1%

Need to see others in my industry succeed first

8.1%

Lack of interest

What actions have farmers taken in the past two years to keep energy costs down?

Changing power usage to manage demand

21.2%

Switching to energy efficient lighting

20.5%

Negotiating directly with provider for cheaper energy

19.3%

Using solar panels

13.8%

Seeking advice from electricians

13.0%

Improving insulation and seals

11.3%

Who is using back-up energy supplies?

55%

of farmers have **back up energy supply** in place

40%+

of farmers generate some renewable energy on-farm

What was the average energy use in 2016-17, by farm type and energy type?

Cropping

Diesel (ML) 37

Electricity (MWh) 64

LP Gas (GJ) 20

Beef

Diesel (ML) 15

Electricity (MWh) 5

LP Gas (GJ) -

Sheep

Diesel (ML) 5

Electricity (MWh) 7

LP Gas (GJ) -

Dairy

Diesel (ML) 26

Electricity (MWh) 134

LP Gas (GJ) -

Horticulture

Diesel (ML) 9

Electricity (MWh) 43

LP Gas (GJ) 35

Poultry

Diesel (ML) 7

Electricity (MWh) 90

LP Gas (GJ) 76