



**Question of the Month: How can organizations drive a sustainable operation while saving money? - by Chuck Hurchalla**

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In 2016, Evolution Energy Partners (EEP) saw true value in defining energy usage reductions for our customers and driving net impact to the bottom line through energy efficiency. By doing so, EEP

became a full-scale energy management firm offering an end-to-end suite of solutions for our customers that define carbon footprint reduction and positive impact to operating expense. If your organization is interested in driving impact through energy efficiency, here are five key things you should consider before getting started.

### 1. Energy efficiency is driven by legislation

Nine major metropolitan cities have implemented legislation that requires energy efficiency upgrades to combat greenhouse gas emissions. These are: Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Reno, Salt Lake City, San Jose, and Washington, D.C. New York has become a sustainability leader, passing the Climate Mobilization Act, one of most aggressive emission regulations in history. The Climate Mobilization Act is a package of bills, with requirements for building owners and operators of properties larger than 25,000 s/f. Efficiency upgrades will require action by 2025 and additional requirements by 2030. Building operation will be required to decrease energy usage through efficiency, purchased green energy, and/or purchased offset credits.

### 2. Free efficiency audit process

An audit of a facility should be free to the customer and define value for future work, unless driven by legislation without defined follow-on work. Be sure to check with your consultant on their fee structure before agreeing to start the audit process.

### 3. Pay back periods for energy efficiency projects are less than five years

The return on investment (ROI) for the first round of energy efficiency projects can average between two and five years. LED lighting upgrades have the best ROI and can be as low as 1.5 years for large lighting upgrades. If you cannot define payback, then why do the upgrade?

### 4. Creative financing options

Energy efficiency projects can have many funding options. Some common options include state/utility rebates, equipment leases, commercial property-assessed clean energy (CPACE) financing, and “on-bill” project funding through a long-term energy supply agreement. The right energy efficiency partner should be able to offer customizable energy efficiency projects that can be paid for without draining capital and are funded through savings with positive cashflow.

### 5. One stop shop

Energy efficiency projects should be driven by energy professionals that can manage risk and efficiency across the company demands. Advising on energy efficiency is only the first step. Find a provider who can assist with every aspect of energy management from project execution to delivery. Without end-to-end delivery, there is increased spend on execution of projects that impact the ROI for the end customer.

These “five things” are the basis for understanding how to drive value for an energy efficiency project. Contact the team at Evolution Energy Partners to help drive cost effective, efficient and sustainable energy solutions for your organization.

Evolution Energy Partners is a full-service energy management, engineering and consulting firm offering best in class sustainability, energy efficiency, procurement, and analytical solutions. For more information about energy efficiency projects and cost savings through energy management, contact us at [info@evolutionep.com](mailto:info@evolutionep.com) or visit our website at [www.evolutionep.com](http://www.evolutionep.com).

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