

Lighthouse City Sonderborg - shops' journey towards a greener life

How do you approach savings on energy consumption as a shop? Shops have several options that can be profitable both for the wallet and for the climate.



ZEROshop is a program launched by ProjectZero and currently holds approx. 190 shops in Sonderborg. The ZEROshops are due to reduce about 1000 tonnes of CO2 by 2025 according to the Roadmap2025 (Sonderborg's Integrated Energy Plan). All ZEROshops have made investments that have reduced their energy consumption and thus their CO2 emissions. But how to start the journey and how to continue it?

Behaviour

For many shops, it starts with the behaviour. Do you remember to turn off the light when you leave the shop? Do you have a warehouse where the light burns all day? Has the shop turned on the window lights all night? If the answer is yes, there will be money and CO2 to be saved by simply hour regulating the time that the lights run. In this way, the light switches off automatically after a certain period. Today, there are many shops that use such timers, especially on the window lighting, as it is not necessary to have the light on at night, when there are no people in the streets anyway.

Lighting

In addition to behavioural changes, replacing the light is often the first thing you resort to. In the past halogen bulbs were used which are now replaced by LED bulbs and are significantly more energy efficient than their halogen predecessor. As a new shop, you should start with LEDs, as other things are not profitable in the long run. Although it may seem like a major investment to replace all lights, Jutta shoes in Perlegade street found that it was just a payback period of almost 1.5 years. Alternatively, you can also replace the light on an ongoing basis as the old bulbs go out. Although the shop is now equipped with LED lighting, it is still a good idea to install timers and light control. There may be other benefits to having LED lights. The light is usually brighter than halogen, and can thus contribute to an improvement in the presentation of the shop's goods.

Heat source

The next thing you can look at that further plays a role in shops' CO2 emissions is the heat source. As many shops are located in a district heating area, most shops already now and from the start have a green heat source. However, there are shops that are still located outside the district heating areas, where it is therefore possible to switch to a heat pump.

Automatization

Automatic control of all energy sources is always a good idea. Either on the light or heat source, automatic control makes it possible to regulate the shop's energy consumption as needed. Thus, the heat source itself can turn up and down to achieve or maintain a desired temperature, which can help reduce consumption.

The Atelier IX shop, which is located in Sonderborg city, has invested in many energy-efficient initiatives. However, the shop has an electricity bill of approx. 3.000 DKK per quarter which means there is definitely more money to be saved while thinking about the climate.

There are many options on which a shop can reduce its energy consumption, and thus its CO2 emissions. The examples mentioned are the typical ones in relation to starting the shop's green journey. Of course, it does not end there. To achieve Sonderborg's goal of CO2 neutrality in 2029, there is a need to save as much as possible on energy consumption, and explore the opportunities that lie in relation to investing in solar cells or a share of a local solar park.

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