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**TASKFORCE**

**Compressed air is not free. In fact, as much as 10% of all the energy consumed by industry is used to generate compressed air. Taking small, incremental steps can lead to significant cost – and carbon – savings.**

Users may not be aware of the positive impact they can have on cutting energy costs from compressed air, meaning leaks can go ignored and air is used indiscriminately.

So, one of the best places to start is by involving your staff. You can make substantial energy improvements by implementing new processes and encouraging your team to use compressed air more efficiently and safely.

Our handy guide will talk you through some of the basics for good housekeeping and management of your compressed air system.

### **The 10% Taskforce!**

Join our campaign to cut compressed air energy wastage and take the equivalent of **317 thousand cars off the road**, saving UK business over **£147.5 million**.

Visit the **BCAS 10% Taskforce website** below and share your energy saving tips. Working together, we can cut our carbon footprint from compressed air for a brighter future!

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BRITISH COMPRESSED AIR SOCIETY


## Your 3-Step Plan

### 1 Draw up a usage policy

 **Appoint someone with overall responsibility and implement an action plan to:**

- Raise awareness
- Establish compressed air costs
- Set targets for reducing avoidable waste


### 2 Switch off the compressor when there is no demand

 **Do not leave compressors on overnight if there is no demand for air because electricity will be consumed to feed leaks.**

Even when off-load, compressors can consume up to 70% of their full load power. Fewer running hours will also reduce maintenance costs.

- Check that compressors are switched off when not needed and are not switched on earlier than necessary
- Check time switch settings regularly

### 3 Consider lower energy alternatives

 **Compressed air is often used because of its safety, flexibility and convenience.**

But sometimes compressed air is used just because it is there, not because it is necessarily the best solution for the job. In the table below are some examples of where compressed air is used for low grade duty and could be replaced by a better alternative.

| Low grade application using compressed air      | Low energy alternative |
|---|------------------------|
| Ventilation                                     | 25%                    |
| Liquid agitation                                | 25%                    |
| Transporting powder at low pressure             | 30%                    |
| Cleaning down workbenches, floors and personnel | 20%                    |

**Note:** Where there is a risk of explosion, electrical interference or extreme temperatures, then compressed air remains the best option.



### Areas of wasted usage

- Leaks
- Leaving air consuming equipment running during breaks
- Using compressed air lines for cleaning down benches and equipment



### Top tips

- Involve staff in your energy-saving initiatives
- Set simple goals to change inefficient practices
- Switch off compressors when not in use

#### More info

For more compressed air energy savings tips and advice, visit

[www.taskforce10.bcas.org.uk](http://www.taskforce10.bcas.org.uk)

