

Energy Opportunities for Sharemilkers

Sharemilkers often face more limited options, focusing primarily on low-cost, quick-payback solutions or improvements they can easily take with them. This guide highlights key areas that are particularly relevant for sharemilkers.



These tips have been developed by the farmer-led Taranaki Catchment Communities (TCC). For additional insights on how to save energy on the farm or to view videos featuring fellow farmers, visit www.taranakicc.nz/taranaki-rural-energy.

Key Areas	Tip	Vendor(s) Addressed
Plate cooler checks	Regular checks are essential and require no capital expenditure (CAPEX). Any resulting adjustments may be low-cost and beneficial for the owner to implement.	
Hot water cylinder wraps; pipe insulation; fixing leaks and drips	Easy, simple, low- or no-cost wins with generally fast payback.	
Hot wash frequency or use of cold water acid rinses	Simple, easy low- or no-cost wins with fast payback.	
Timers	Low investment, fast payback if the electrician is out for other work.	
VSDs	Installers have reported payback periods as short as one year. This option allows sharemilkers to benefit from quick returns and gives them the flexibility to uninstall and take the system with them if the owner does not buy it out.	
Milk vat wrap	This could be a viable option based on your expected tenure or if the owner may consider a “buy-out.” While it can be removed and taken with you, be aware that the size and shape of the milk vat at your next farm may differ.	
Ice bank chiller early renewal	Sharemilkers might consider discussing a Pay As You Save (PAUS) option for a new chiller with the owner. The only upfront cost would be for the glycol, while the asset can be paid for through the savings generated.	
Pond bacteria additive	Consider shifting operating costs to help reduce nutrient spreading costs, leading to lower overall input costs and decreased energy use.	
Operational checklist	See our Energy Savings Guides on the TCC website (www.taranakicc.nz/taranaki-rural-energy/)	

Next Step

Speak to your vendors to get advice for your specific circumstances.