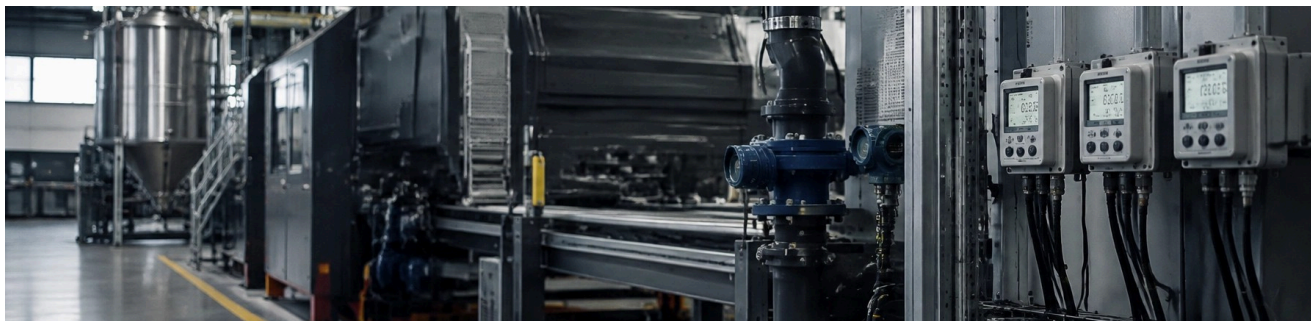


Controls and behaviour: this week's list

The cheapest energy is the energy you stop using by Friday



Not every saving needs a project. Some need a Friday afternoon, a ladder and a bit of discipline. These measures are typically low-cost or free, and they often deliver surprisingly quickly, the half-hourly data will show them within days.

The list

Measure	What to do
Setpoints	Heating and cooling fighting each other, spaces conditioned beyond what the activity needs, hot water set too high. Check them against what the task actually requires.
Timers and schedules	Plant running to schedules that stopped matching the operation years ago, changeovers, shifts, shutdown days, holidays.
Doors	Cold store doors, factory doors, loading bays. Open doors are unattended plant running at full cost.
Compressed air leaks	Listen at the weekend. Leaks are the most common hidden load in manufacturing and show up clearly out of hours.
Lighting in empty spaces	Stores, corridors, external areas on all night. Presence and daylight controls pay back quickly in these spaces.
Small loads	Display screens, kettles, local heaters, desk fans. Small individually, material in aggregate.
Ownership	The cheapest control is a named person with the authority to switch something off.

How to prove it worked

Pick two or three measures, note the date you fixed them, and compare the two weeks before and after in your half-hourly data. That before-and-after comparison is your first measurement and verification exercise, and the habit that makes bigger projects fundable later.

Keep it honest: if the weather or production changed between the two weeks, say so in your note. Evidence you can defend is worth more than a bigger number.

The Friday afternoon method

- Pick one space, one plant room or one compressed-air ring, not the whole site at once
- Walk it with the half-hourly data on your phone, not from memory
- Fix what you can fix today; log what needs a budget
- Compare the following week's data against the week before
- Write down what changed and what it was worth, that's your evidence trail started

Worked example (illustrative): a 37 kW compressor left fighting leaks all weekend. If leaks waste a quarter of its output, a commonly cited industry figure, that is roughly 9 kW running flat out when no one is producing: some 540 kWh across a weekend, or in the order of £100 to £150 every weekend at 25p/kWh. An ultrasonic leak survey usually finds the worst of it in an afternoon, and even a professional survey typically costs a fraction of what it saves.

Where this fits the bigger picture

Quick wins are not a substitute for strategy; they're its evidence base. The savings they prove build the internal credibility that the bigger projects, drives, refrigeration upgrades, solar, will need when they reach the board. Start small, measure honestly, and the large business case writes itself from your own data.

Remember: the cheapest source of capital is the energy you are wasting.



About Hawley Energy

Hawley Energy is an independent energy consultancy based in West Yorkshire. We turn energy compliance pressure into measurable progress: data analytics and reporting (Enerlyse), transparent procurement (Baseline Power), coordinated project delivery and flexible financing (PowerPacks), with one point of contact and complete accountability. Certified to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001, and led by a CIBSE-accredited ESOS Lead Assessor, we replace guesswork with evidence-driven insight. The cheapest source of capital is the energy you are wasting.

Talk it through: no pressure

Andrew Hawley · hello@hawleyenergy.co.uk · 01484 958761
30-minute call · I love a challenge



Sources: Carbon Trust and ESOS action-plan guidance. Typical savings depend on site conditions and operating patterns. A Hawley Energy session resource, part of the free WYMS manufacturer pack at hawleyenergy.co.uk/wyms. Last verified: 20 October 2026.