

## EXPERT EYE

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# *Savings for your Owners Association*

**S**ummer is here and that means increased utility expenses to keep our living environments cool and green. Instead of paying more, why not make a lasting change that will not only save the Owners Association (OA) money, but also be environmentally beneficial?

### **Conduct an energy audit**

Contact an energy management firm to determine where your OA may be wasting or losing energy. An energy audit also includes energy saving solutions that are simple and cost effective. One solution that pays for itself quickly is fluorescent lighting. Fluorescent bulbs are more expensive than incandescent bulbs but are energy efficient and last longer. This means savings in the electricity bill and labour required to change bulbs.

### **Conserve water**

Dubai is in the desert! By initiating a water conservation programme, including free water waste inspections and by promoting water saving devices, the savings can be considerable. Low-flow showers and low-flush toilets can make a huge impact on your water bill. For common areas, consider selecting plants that are drought-tolerant and suited to the local climate. Consider reducing overall water use by replacing turf in some common spaces with native grasses and ground covers.

### **Recycle trash**

Investigate recycling options with your local trash contractor. Recycling helps the environment for obvious reasons - resources are reused instead of being thrown out, saving our landfills.

### **Get involved**

Members of OAs have two responsibilities - first, to themselves and to their freehold property, and second, to the association and the community. Help build community spirit. United communities are safer, more livable and happier.