



10 Low-Cost Ways for Businesses to Save Energy and Dollars

Bottom Line on Electricity Management

Taking a few proactive steps to reduce electricity usage can save you money and preserve the environment. Here are 10 ways that businesses can reduce energy consumption while continuing to provide a comfortable and safe environment for employees and customers.

Lighting Tips

- Keep bulbs and lighting fixtures clean and reduce lighting where possible. Turn off lights in unoccupied areas, remove excess lighting, and turn off signage and other lights not necessary for security and safety.
- Install motion or occupancy sensors. These inexpensive devices can reduce lighting costs by up to 40% by turning off lights in unoccupied storage areas, meeting rooms, hallways and rest rooms.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with low mercury compact fluorescents, which can last up to nine times longer and reduce your lighting costs by up to 75%. Replacing incandescent lights in signs with LED fixtures can reduce the cost of sign illumination by up to 95%.

Air Conditioning Tips

- Install programmable thermostats to automatically control room temperature settings. **Take advantage of Peaksaver and receive a FREE programmable thermostat and installation.** Air conditioning thermostats should be set no cooler than 25.5° C (78° F). Each degree setting below 26° C will increase your energy consumption by approximate 8%.
- Hire a licenced contractor to check your air conditioning system at least semi-annually. To ensure peak performance, it's especially helpful to frequently change the filters that get extremely dirty fast in restaurant settings.

Refrigeration Tips

- Each month, check the seals, gaskets and latches on doors to make sure they form an airtight seal when closed.
- Consider adding strip curtains to walk-in coolers to reduce the amount of energy lost to the surrounding air. Your system will use less energy and won't work as hard, cutting maintenance costs. As an added bonus, these curtains repel windborne contaminants like dust and pollutants.
- Keep the temperature at the manufacturer's recommended optimal setting. Better yet, consider installing variable speed drives, which automatically adjust the level of refrigeration and can be used on the motors of all kinds of refrigeration units.

Office Equipment Tips

- Choose ENERGY STAR products when upgrading or adding new equipment. These products meet federal standards for energy efficiency and are often available at the same cost as less efficient models. And since most ENERGY STAR equipment powers down during periods of inactivity, you'll save even more.
- Turn off or set office equipment to power down when not in use. Turning off one computer and monitor nightly and on weekends can save up to \$50 a year. And setting PCs, monitors and copiers to use sleep mode when not in use can help cut office energy costs by up to 50%.