

Commercial & Industrial Conservation Tips

Control rising energy costs by building sustainability into your business plan.

Staff Awareness - include your staff in your energy conservation plan(s). They may be able to identify areas for savings that you hadn't considered and they will help you implement your plan to make it successful.

- Complete your own energy audit to help you identify where you can save energy.
- Establish an energy policy and communicate it to staff.
- Encourage ideas from staff about how to reduce energy use.
- Communicate success to motivate staff.

Heating Equipment - purchase the best equipment possible and keep up on the maintenance. Properly maintained equipment will last longer and save energy. *Look to Cascade Natural Gas for cash rebates on qualified equipment.*

- Install or use existing programmable thermostats.
 - Set temperatures in summer to 75 degrees with a night time setback of 85 degrees
 - Set temperatures in winter to 68 degrees with a night time setback of 50 degrees
- Upgrade to high-efficiency heating equipment when replacing units and make sure it is sized properly.
- Ask your HVAC contractor about installing economizers.
- Perform routine and regular maintenance of mechanical equipment (filters, steam traps, clean coils).
- Perform boiler efficiency testing and adjustment

Insulate and Seal Leaks - pesky drafts and hot/cold sections of your building add up in wasted energy costs. Make sure to seal your building envelope to keep your energy costs down, providing comfort to employees, customers and tenants. *Look to Cascade Natural Gas for cash rebates on insulation.*

- Seal air and duct leaks.
- Make sure there are no worn out gaskets or door seals.
- Insulate the roof, walls and ceiling.

Water Heating - don't forget about water heating needs. There are a variety of ways to save with low flow water aerators, sprayers, high efficiency water heaters and more. *Look to Cascade Natural Gas for cash rebates on qualified equipment.*

- Install low-flow devices for kitchen sprayers and in bathrooms.
- Lower your hot water temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit when applicable.
- Insulate hot water tanks and pipes.
- Replace your old water heater with high-efficiency models.
- Consider installing a properly sized, high-efficiency, dedicated water heater if you utilize a heating boiler for your domestic hot water.
- Install tank-less water heaters. Tankless can save your business by heating only what's needed.

Commercial Cooking Equipment - high efficiency cooking equipment combined with a sound energy plan can save you plenty. *Look to Cascade Natural Gas for cash rebates on qualified equipment.*

- Cook wisely; use the most efficient appliances for the task. Look to ENERGY STAR® for a list of energy efficient commercial cooking equipment. www.energystar.gov
- Reduce the amount of idle and preheat time. Implement a start up and shutdown plan to ensure that only the required appliances are operating.
- Maintain and repair all kitchen equipment. Everyday wear and tear such as leaky gaskets, clogged burners and loose hinges can add up to be major sources of energy loss.
- Recalibrate thermostats and temperature controls of kitchen equipment to ensure you're cooking at the right temperature.
- When replacing kitchen equipment, buy the most efficient piece of equipment that you can. Even when faced with an immediate replacement need, consider the total lifecycle cost rather than purchasing the cheapest - it will save you money in energy efficiency, productivity, maintenance, durability, ease of use and cleaning.

Office Equipment - Get your staff involved in your shut down program at the end of the day. Be sure to purchase ENERGY STAR rated equipment when possible.

- Turn it off. If you're not using equipment, turn it off and unplug it. Power cords for items like cell phones still draw power even when you're not charging your phone.
- Set your monitor to power down when you are away from your desk for more than ten minutes.
- Enforce duplex printing habits to eliminate waste
- Maintain your equipment.
- Install Smart Strips that will sense when a worker is away from their work station and power down equipment.
- Install Compact Fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) where possible. CFL's use up to 75 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent.

