

GREEN DOLLAR STRETCHER

Conservation:

- Determine ways to decrease your energy use and increase efficiency. This can include upgrades to your lighting system, operational equipment, building envelope, and Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling systems. Whenever possible, integrate new technologies and use renewable and alternative energy sources.
- Carefully choose how you use, reuse, and dispose of materials. Things to look at include: raw materials, waste generated, water use, and use of packaging. Consider incorporating green building techniques into renovations and new construction.

Reduce Winter Heating Costs:

- **Check your windows and doors for drafts.** Use caulk to seal gaps around window frames and install inexpensive weather stripping to reduce air infiltration around doors.
- **Maximize the efficiency of your heating system.** Have a heating contractor service your heating system to ensure it is working as efficiently as possible.
- **Insulate metal pipes.** As hot air or hot water moves through metal pipes, heat is transferred to areas that do not need to be heated (e.g. beneath floorboards). Insulating pipes will reduce this heat loss, ensuring that the hot air or water gets where you want it to go.
- **Install a programmable thermostat.** Make sure your furnace is not operating when your facility is empty. You will notice significant savings on your heating bill by setting the nighttime temperature 10-15 degrees lower than the daytime temperature.

Water Saving Measures:

- "Grey water" - Rainwater captured from rooftops for pond, fountain or sprinkling system.
- "Grey water" - Parking lot water collected, filtered through a planted wetlands area or pond.
- Pervious pavement reduces runoff and allows renewed soil infiltration
- Plant flowers or native species on the berms bordering the street. The raised beds help reduce storm water runoff from the lots. Retaining water on-site reduces the need for lawn watering and helps reduce storm water flows.
- Low water usage plumbing fixtures, waterless urinals
- Instant hot water heaters
- Fix Leaks. Small leaks add up to many gallons of water and dollars wasted each month.
- Use water-saving faucets and showerheads and urinals to save water.
- Install an insulation blanket on water heaters seven years of age or older, and insulate the first 3 feet of the heated water "out" pipe on both old and new units.
- If using standard water heater, set temperature only as hot as needed (110-120 degrees) to prevent scalds and save energy.

Energy Saving Tips : Heating & Air Conditioning (HVAC)

- 'Tune-up' your heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) system. Any system will decline in performance without regular maintenance.
- Regularly change (or clean if reusable) HVAC filters every month during peak cooling or heating season. New filters usually only cost a few dollars.
- Install a programmable thermostat to automate your HVAC system. This solid-state, electronic device optimizes HVAC operation "24/7" based on your schedule, and can be

- overridden as needed for unscheduled events.
- Control direct sun through windows depending on the season and local climate. During cooling season, block direct heat gain from the sun shining through glass on the east and especially west sides of the facility. Depending on your facility, options such as “solar screens,” “solar films,” awnings, and vegetation can help. Interior curtains or drapes can help, but it’s best to prevent the summer heat from getting past the glass and inside. During heating season, with the sun low in the South, unobstructed southern windows can contribute solar heat gain during the day.
 - Use fans. Comfort is a function of temperature, humidity, and air movement. Moving air can make a somewhat higher temperature and/or humidity feel comfortable. Fans can help delay or reduce the need for air conditioning, and a temperature setting of only 3 to 5 degrees higher can feel as comfortable with fans. Each degree of higher temperature can save about 3% on cooling costs. A large attic fan can push air hot out and pull cool air in.
 - Plug leaks with weather stripping and caulking.

How to Reduce General Energy Consumption

- Unplug seldom-used appliances, like an extra refrigerator in the basement or garage that contains just a few items. You may save around \$ 10+ every month on your utility bill.
- Every house is full of little plastic power supplies to charge cell phones, digital cameras, cordless tools and other personal gadgets. Keep them unplugged until you need them.
- Hibernate Computers by enabling the “sleep mode” feature, allowing it to use less power during periods of inactivity. Configure your computer to “hibernate” automatically after 30 minutes or so of inactivity.
- Work by daylight when possible. A typical building uses more energy for lighting than anything else.
- Take Control of Temperature. Set your thermostat in winter to 68 degrees or less during the daytime, and 55 degrees before going to sleep (or when you’re away for the day). During the summer, set thermostats to 78 degrees or more. Use sunlight wisely. During the heating season, leave shades and blinds open on sunny days, but close them at night to reduce the amount of heat lost through windows. Close shades and blinds during the summer or when the air conditioner is in use or will be in use later in the day.
- Use Appliances Efficiently. Set your refrigerator temperature at 38 to 42 degrees Fahrenheit your freezer should be set between 0 and 5 degrees Fahrenheit. Use the power-save switch if your fridge has one, and make sure the door seals tightly. You can check this by making sure that a dollar bill closed in between the door gaskets is difficult to pull out. If it slides easily between the gaskets, replace them.
- Don’t preheat or “peek” inside the oven more than necessary. Check the seal on the oven door, and use a microwave oven for cooking or reheating small items.
- Wash only full loads in your dishwasher, using short cycles for all but the dirtiest dishes. This saves water and the energy used to pump and heat it.
- In your clothes washer, set the appropriate water level for the size of the load; wash in cold water when practical, and always rinse in cold.