

SMART GREEN TIPS

ENERGY STAR Products

- Qualified refrigerators are at least 15 percent more efficient than the minimum federal standard.
- Qualified office equipment automatically enters a low-power "sleep" mode after a period of inactivity; qualified computers use 70 percent less electricity than computers without enabled power management features.
- Qualified light bulbs (CFLs) use two-thirds less energy than a standard incandescent bulb, last up to 10 times longer, and must meet additional operating and reliability guidelines.
- Qualified furnaces offer a rating of 90 percent AFUE or greater, which is about 15 percent more efficient than the minimum federal efficiency standard.

Visit www.energystar.gov for more information.

Indirect Energy Savings

Sometimes an energy efficient technology or practice will provide greater savings than first appears. Reducing energy consumption in one end-use can often indirectly save energy in other systems due to interactive effects among end-uses.

For example, the cooling load in a building includes the heat generated by the lighting system. Using efficient lighting, lowering light levels, using high efficiency windows, optimizing the ventilation system, etc., will all reduce the cooling load as well as the direct use of electricity for lighting, heating fans, etc. A much smaller chiller is also required, saving additional capital dollars, and making the overall package even more cost effective. Indirect savings, therefore, often allow much higher levels of efficiency to be cost effective.

Sometimes indirect effects can be both positive and negative. For example, use of efficient lighting will increase the heating load while reducing the cooling load. However, heating systems produce heat more efficiently than lighting, therefore the net impact of efficient lighting is almost always positive, especially if natural gas is used for space heating.

Recycle! It is very simple to provide clearly labeled bins for recycling plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.

Net Present Value is the best method for evaluating projects. It measures the increase in value of the investment based on the organizations required rate of return. It takes into account the equipment life, risk of the investment and when the energy savings will be delivered. It is easy to calculate and should be used for evaluating all of your proposed projects.

Net Present Value (NPV) = Initial Investment + Sum of the Present Values of the Estimated Energy Savings (Life of the Project)