

ENERGY SMART SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Wise use of energy can improve your bottom line: in most cases, you can cut your energy bills by 30 percent or more simply by managing energy more effectively. We have a few recommendations.

HVAC SYSTEMS

Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are usually a business's biggest energy users. Here are some ideas for economizing:

- Turn HVAC down or off when not needed. Better yet, install a programmable thermostat that will do it for you automatically. Program it to the temperature you want the space to be when you arrive, to a higher or lower temperature during the day as usage changes (such as customers arriving), and to higher summer and lower winter temperatures when the space is unoccupied. You can save as much as 20 to 40 percent on heating costs—and you never have to give your thermostat settings a second thought.
- Have the HVAC system inspected and maintained regularly by a certified Enliance professional, who will:
 - Reduce fan speeds and adjust belt drives.
 - Check valves, dampers, linkages, and motors for proper alignment and lubrication and repair, recalibrate, or replace controls.
 - Turn off water pumps in hot-water heating systems in mild weather (upgrade to automatic controls whenever possible).
- Check and maintain steam traps, vacuum systems, and vents in one-pipe steam systems.



- Upgrade major components, such as fans, circulator pumps, compressors, boilers, furnaces, or chillers to the latest technology.
- Lower the thermostat in the winter and raise it in the summer. Even just a few degrees can save hundreds of dollars. Make the change gradually—a degree or so a week—to let people get used to it. Your savings will depend on how much you raise or lower the thermostat and the temperature of the outside air.

CONVERTING TO NATURAL GAS MEANS BIG SAVINGS

Converting from electricity to natural gas may cut your annual energy bills in half. Your Enliance contractor is trained to evaluate your heating, cooling, and ventilation needs and recommend the system that's right for the space it serves. A system that's too large will waste energy; one that's too small won't do the job.

LIGHTING

Lighting is probably the second most expensive component of your energy bill, and the heat it generates can increase your cooling costs. There are many ways to save money; as you evaluate your options, be sure to consider comfort (light that is too bright or too low is difficult to work by); color, (especially in retail applications such as clothing stores, salons, art galleries, or grocery stores, where color can influence purchasing decisions); and safety and security.

Here are some ideas for how to save on your lighting costs:

- Turn off lights in unoccupied spaces, reduce lighting during non-business hours, install programmable controls or motion sensors, reduce lighting near windows during the day. Make sure outdoor lights are on timers or use photoelectric cells to turn them off during the day and back on at twilight.

- Consider replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. They come in a wide range of sizes, shapes, wattages, and colors. The cost to operate an ordinary incandescent light bulb for 10,000 hours is roughly twice the cost of operating a compact fluorescent bulb.
- Replace high-wattage incandescent bulbs with lower wattage bulbs. Avoid “long life” bulbs: they yield less light per watt, so you will need more of them, which will increase energy costs.
- People working at computers, desks, drafting tables, and product assembly areas may benefit from task lighting. Desk and floor lamps provide light where it's needed, so you can reduce background light levels significantly. Compact fluorescent bulbs are ideal. Avoid halogen desk lamps and torchiere floor lamps: the intense heat they generate can pose a fire hazard.
- Clean lamps, lenses, and globe lights regularly. Dirty fixtures and bulbs can reduce lighting output by as much as 35 percent.

WATER HEATERS

Another area of potential energy savings is your water-heating system. You can realize energy efficiencies by:

- Insulating water heaters and pipes.
- Lowering the temperature of hot water to below 130° unless your business requires extremely hot water.

- Turning off the water heater when employees are not present.
- Regularly maintaining your water-heating system.
- Investing in energy-saving controls, such as timers with demand monitors.

WINDOWS

Replacing old windows with energy-efficient windows will maximize energy savings. If replacing the windows isn't an option, invest in new insulation that's up to current codes.

There are several innovations in window design that can save you money:

- Heat-reflective coatings applied to glass reflect heat back toward the original heat source—the building in winter and the outdoors in summer.
- Inert gases such as argon and krypton between double-paned windows serve as very efficient insulators and slow down heat and cool-air loss to the outside.
- Vinyl and wood window frames insulate better than metal frames. Wood windows require more maintenance than vinyl, which require no painting and typically have warranties of 20 years or more. Wood frames have similar efficiency ratings, however, and some manufacturers make window frames with wood interiors and vinyl exteriors.

TOP 10 ENERGY SAVERS:

Saving energy saves you money. Here are a few tips to help you cut your energy costs:

- 1 Check your HVAC system.
- 2 Adjust heating and air conditioning settings for unoccupied time periods.
- 3 Have your HVAC system serviced and adjusted regularly.
- 4 Lower the heat settings during colder months and raise air conditioning settings during warmer months.
- 5 Turn down or shut off office machines and other equipment when not in use.
- 6 Make sure automatic controls on hot-water systems are in good working condition and are properly set.
- 7 Turn off lights when not needed.
- 8 Remove unneeded light bulbs.
- 9 When replacing light bulbs, use lower wattage or more efficient bulbs.
- 10 Keep light fixtures clean.

REFERRALS

For referrals to financing services or to energy specialists near you, please visit our website, www.enliance.com, or call us at **1-800-562-1482**.