

Energy Efficiency for Business

In today's competitive business world, the ever-rising cost of doing business is compelling firms to streamline their operations. One way that businesses can lower their operating costs is to reduce their energy consumption. Because energy typically accounts for a large portion of an organization's variable operating costs, taking simple steps to reduce energy use can significantly lower energy and operating costs.

Making your business more energy-efficient provides many benefits:

- Lower energy costs
- Lower maintenance costs
- Improved comfort
- Increased building asset value
- Improved business marketability to attract tenants
- Enhanced public recognition
- Reduced environmental impacts

Energy efficiency improvements range from no-cost, behavioural steps like turning off lights, which can return energy savings of up to 10 per cent, to long-term, capital projects like installing a high-efficiency heating plant which can produce energy savings of over 30 per cent.

Here are some recommended energy efficiency measures that commercial businesses can take:

- Turn off lights and equipment when not in use and at the end of the day.

- Set the water heater thermostat to the minimum required setting, generally 50°C (122°F).
- Set heating temperatures back to 16°C to 18°C (61°F to 64°F) and cooling temperatures forward to 24°C to 28°C (75°F to 82°F) at the end of the day or during unoccupied periods.
- Perform routine maintenance and repair on heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems (i.e., change filters, coils, fans, compressors, etc.).
- Replace incandescent lamps with compact fluorescent lamps.
- Replace incandescent exit sign lamps with LED lamps.
- Upgrade T12 fluorescent lamps with magnetic ballasts to T8 fluorescent lamps with low-power electronic ballasts.
- Install economizers on rooftop HVAC units to take advantage of fresh air-cooling.

Check out our industry specific energy efficiency information sheets for Restaurant, Hotel, Office and Retail.

Contact Us

For more information on how Power Smart can energize your bottom line, call us today at 604 453-6400 in the Lower Mainland, 1 866 453-6400 elsewhere, or visit our web site at www.bchydro.com/business.