

Press Release



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Efficiency Maine Offers Ways for Local Businesses to Save Energy

Augusta, MAINE (November 15, 2005) – Efficiency Maine offers the following tips to help local businesses save electric energy and reduce operating costs. Information about the Efficiency Maine Business Program and types of electricity-saving devices are available online at www.energymaine.com or by calling toll-free, 1-866-376-2463.

Lighting

- Install occupancy sensor switches in seldom-occupied areas like closets, storage areas, and conference rooms. Use motion sensors, time clocks, or photoelectric sensors on exterior and security lighting.
- Make use of free daylight, where possible. Turn off or dim lights when daylight is available, or use automatic dimming controls. Use high reflectance ceiling tiles and light colors on walls, partitions, and carpeting to carry daylight into interior space.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFLs) wherever possible. CFLs use about 1/4 the energy, plus, they last 10-12 times as long, saving on replacement bulb cost and labor.
- Schedule cleaning services during the day. If you must clean the building at night, use the minimum number of lights possible.

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems

- Give your HVAC system a tune-up. HVAC system performance declines without regular maintenance, so check heating units this fall. Ask your HVAC contractor about an annual maintenance contract. You will save money and be more comfortable.
- Install ENERGY STAR[®] ceiling fans to create air movement. Air temperatures can vary up to 5°F between floors and ceilings.

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Hot Water

- Reduce hot water temperature. If hot water is needed just for general use, like hand washing, reduce the temperature setting on the hot water tank to 120°F, or lower. If a higher temperature is needed for a specific piece of equipment, consider a booster heater.

Office Equipment

- Look for the ENERGY STAR label when purchasing computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, and other office equipment. The ENERGY STAR label means that the equipment is energy efficient. If you lease equipment, insist on energy efficient models – you are paying the electric bill.
- Turn off office equipment at night. Be sure computers, printers, copiers, and other office equipment are turned off at night, on weekends and at other times when not in use. If the equipment has a power-saver mode, be sure it is enabled. Screen-saver features are designed to protect computer screens from “burn-in,” not to save energy, and in fact use significant energy.

Refrigeration Equipment

- Check gaskets and closing mechanisms on refrigerator doors frequently. Close a dollar bill in the refrigerator door, and then pull on the bill. If it comes out easily, check for worn gaskets or out-of-adjustment closing mechanisms.

Cash Incentives

- Now is an especially good time to take advantage of the financial incentives offered by Efficiency Maine for installing qualified energy efficient electric equipment. Businesses are eligible for up to \$50,000 per calendar year. For information visit www.energymaine.com or call 1-866-376-2463.

Efficiency Maine is a statewide effort to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine residents and businesses reduce energy costs, and improve Maine’s environment. Efficiency Maine is funded by electricity consumers and administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.