



Energy waste reduction at your business to lower your utility bills

Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) is becoming a top priority for Michigan businesses. Small changes add up to big savings. It's true: the cheapest energy is the energy you don't use.

Ways to save:

- Tune up your heating, ventilating and air conditioning system annually, and regularly change filters, especially during the heating and cooling season.
- Turn off lights and other electronic equipment when not in use, and turn on the power management function on office computers.
- Adjust lighting to actual needs, optimizing the use of free daylight, and install switch plate occupancy sensors in proper locations.
- Install window films and add insulation or reflective roof coating to reduce energy waste.
- Educate staff about energy use and consider developing an energy team to pursue energy waste reduction.
- Save an estimated 10 percent a year on heating and cooling with a programmable thermostat.
- Install ENERGY STAR qualified lighting, exit signs and electronic equipment.
- Consider buying a laptop for your next computer upgrade: it uses much less energy than a desktop computer.
- Conduct an energy audit to identify areas where building systems have become inefficient over time to bring them back to peak performance.
- Replace equipment with more efficient equipment.
- **Cutting water use can cut energy bills, too:**
 - ◆ Repair leaking pipes, fixtures, and seals. Small leaks add up to many gallons of water and dollars wasted each month.
 - ◆ Use water-saving faucets, showerheads, toilets and urinals to save water.
 - ◆ Install controls that turn off faucets automatically.
 - ◆ Use plants native to your climate that require minimal watering and possess better pest resistance with landscaping. If local code allows, consider diverting "gray water" for irrigation.

Other resources:

Contact your local utility for available energy waste reduction programs or rebates.

Visit the [Energy Waste Reduction](#) link at the **Michigan Public Service Commission** website at www.michigan.gov/mpsc

Consider using [ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager](#), an online tool available at: www.energystar.gov

The **Michigan Saves Business Energy Loan Program**, makes energy waste reduction improvements easy, affordable and smart. More information is available at the energy efficiency link at www.michigansaves.org

The [United States Department of Agriculture](#) Rural Energy for America Program provides energy waste reduction for agriculture and rural small businesses. More information is available at the rd.usda.gov

Faith-based organizations: The mission of **Interfaith Power & Light** is to be faithful stewards by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy waste reduction, and renewable energy. Visit Interfaith Power and Light at www.interfaithpowerandlight.org

The Property-Assessed Clean Energy Programs (PACE) model is an innovative way that businesses and local officials can work together to pursue energy waste reduction projects that would not otherwise take place. See www.pacenation.us

Visit www.energy.gov/energysaver and www.energystar.gov for **federal programs** available.

For more information about **Michigan programs** to help lower energy costs and reduce energy waste, visit www.michigan.gov/mpsc