

SUMMER ENERGY SAVING TIPS - STAY COOL AND IMPROVE YOUR BOTTOM LINE

BY ED HUTCHINSON, PRESIDENT, HUTCHINSON MECHANICAL SERVICES

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Hutchinson Mechanical Services, a leading mechanical services contractor serving the Tri-State Region's commercial customers, offers these energy saving tips during the "dog days" of summer to help you stay cool and improve your bottom line.

- 1. Replace inefficient, outdated or excessive lighting within your building.** Replace existing light bulbs with compact fluorescent ones which produce three to four times as much light per watt as incandescent bulbs. Halogen bulbs are also another energy-efficient choice for indoor and outdoor lighting and use about 25 percent less energy than traditional incandescent ones.
- 2. Turn off lights when not in use.** It's a myth that turning lights on and off uses more electricity than leaving the lights on.
- 3. Set the office thermostats between 74 and 76 degrees during the day/business hours and above 80 degrees during unoccupied hours.** To ensure that these settings are well maintained, install programmable thermostats so employees will not have to worry or remember to adjust the settings when they leave.
- 4. As the refrigerator likely consumes the most energy in your office kitchen, check the door seals by sliding a dollar bill into the door and closing it.** If you can slide the dollar bill out easily, the cold air leaking out is wasting energy. If this is the case, make sure you get the leaky seal fixed or replaced. Also, set your refrigerator setting between 35 and 38 degrees and freezers at 0 degrees Fahrenheit.
- 5. Establish a preventative maintenance program for your heating, venting and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment and systems:**
 - ▶ Change or clean all air filters, preferably every month.
 - ▶ Repair leaks in piping, air ducts, coils, fittings and at the unit(s).
 - ▶ Replace defective equipment insulation, ducting and piping.
 - ▶ Upgrade to a high-efficiency chiller or AC system as new chillers are 25-50 percent more efficient than chillers 10+ years old
 - ▶ Install/upgrade HVAC controls to include new energy management systems technologies.

6. Take Advantage of Energy Efficient Programs

Hutchinson is a Participating Contractor in two of New Jersey's most successful Clean Energy Programs - Direct Install and Pay for Performance. These innovative programs offer commercial, industrial and governmental customers financial incentives, design support and technical assistance to integrate energy efficient and renewable energy technologies into retrofit and new construction

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energy upgrades. Direct Install currently pays up to 70 percent of the cost of energy efficiency upgrades for businesses and local governments. Through the program, Hutchinson provides prospective customers with a FREE energy assessment to identify eligible equipment, including lighting upgrades, HVAC, refrigeration, motors, natural gas equipment and variable frequency drives.

Pay for Performance is a comprehensive energy efficiency program that provides incentives toward whole-building energy improvements. Hutchinson develops an energy reduction plan for each project with a whole-building technical component of a traditional energy audit, a financial plan for funding the energy efficient measures and a construction schedule for installation.

Contact Hutchinson at 888-777-4501 or Dicoordinator@hutchbiz.com to schedule an energy assessment appointment.



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