

Top tips for saving energy

Try one of these simple energy-saving tips to conserve resources and reduce energy bills in your workplace.

Heating and hot water

Heating, air conditioning and ventilation are big users of energy, so it's a good place to start when looking for ways to make savings.

- ▶ Just 1°C of overheating can increase fuel costs by 8%*, so don't attempt to override the heating or air conditioning without talking to your manager first.
- ▶ Talk to your energy manager or facilities team if the store is too hot, cold or draughty. This could indicate a maintenance problem.
- ▶ Check taps aren't left running – and report any dripping taps and overflowing cisterns.

DID YOU KNOW? Turning the thermostat up to its maximum setting doesn't warm up the space any faster; it just leads to overheating. The same is true of air conditioning thermostats if you turn them to their lowest setting.

Refrigeration

Refrigeration in a small retail outlet can account for half of its total electricity bill.* But you can be smart about how you use refrigeration units.

- ▶ Avoid leaving chiller doors open unnecessarily.
- ▶ Use any energy-efficiency features on units e.g. insulating covers or blinds.
- ▶ Let management know if any equipment is damaged or due for maintenance, as this could affect how it works.
- ▶ Ensure equipment is kept clean and free of dust, so that it operates at optimum performance.

DID YOU KNOW? Overfilling the shelves in chiller units could increase energy costs, if it results in the set temperature needing to be lowered in order to keep food safe.

Lighting and appliances

25% of your electricity bill could be going on lighting, but there are some easy steps you can take to cut this and save energy.

- ▶ Switch off lights in rooms that aren't in use or which don't have sensors – and tell others to do so too.
- ▶ Report any faulty or inadequate lighting.
- ▶ If you have blinds in offices to keep out glare, direct them towards the ceiling or walls so you don't need to turn internal lights on too.
- ▶ In offices, don't leave appliances in standby mode and shut down equipment when not in use.
- ▶ Only fill the kettle with the amount of water that you need – boiling more wastes water *and* electricity; and don't put the dishwasher on until it's full.

DID YOU KNOW? Even if you turn off a light for just a few seconds, it'll save more energy than it takes for the light to start up again.

Talk to us! Report any lighting or heating problems to:

Inspired by EDF Energy's schools programme.
Find out more at jointhepod.org