

BUSINESS ENERGY AUDIT



For small businesses like yours, the COVID-19 pandemic is posing unique challenges. Small businesses across California and the country are facing financial hardships like never before.

One way to trim down costs as much as possible during this challenging time is to perform an energy audit at your place of business. Even saving small amounts of energy can help reduce utility bills at a time when every penny counts. The audit below details areas of your business where you might consider making easy adjustments. You can also use the links below to find more resources from energy providers on how to save energy and money.

EASY BUSINESS ENERGY AUDIT



Take the temperature of your workplace! Set your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer.



Check on unused equipment and small appliances and unplug them when not in use.



Be aware of any lights on in unoccupied areas.



Look for ways and rebates to upgrade to dimmers, timers, and sensors for lights and appliances.



Check all your light bulbs. Are you using LEDs or older less efficient bulbs?



Locate air leaks and drafts – check windows, doors, skylights, and other areas.



Change air filters regularly – check your filters and replace them if they look dirty.



Be sure to turn off computers and other office supplies at the end of the day.



Become a certified green business! Check with your local energy provider to help you reduce your business's carbon footprint.

SMALL BUSINESS USEFUL LINKS



SCE Business Energy Guide



PG&E Business Resource Center



SDGE Business Saving Center



SoCalGas For Your Business page



For more info, visit energyupgradeca.org

FACT SHEET



The transition to working from home has been incredibly difficult for small businesses and their staff across the state. Working from and being at home can lead to increased energy use, and with it, increased energy bills. Small businesses often operate on small margins. To help, here are some easy ways for you to save energy and money at the office and at home.

REDUCING ENERGY USAGE AT THE OFFICE

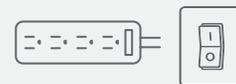
While businesses are closed, computers, lights, and appliances can still consume wasteful amounts of energy even when inactive. Here are some ways to help cut back on unnecessary office energy consumption:



Unplug all computers and other office electronics to reduce vampire energy consumption.



Turn off all lights, except in rooms/offices where work is continuing.



Switch off all surge protectors unless they are being used to power a server or refrigerator.



Reduce air leaks to save on heating and air conditioning expenses.



Utilize natural heating/cooling and lighting instead of turning on air conditioning or light fixtures when possible.



Switch out incandescent light bulbs for longer-lasting energy-efficient LED bulbs.

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITIES IN THIS TIME OF NEED

- [Access financial aid for COVID19-related economic damages](#)
- Check your local Chamber of Commerce website for a list of small businesses still open and active in your community
- Order takeout from local restaurants to show your solidarity with small businesses in these challenging times
- Donate any unused food, clothing, or other resources to local food banks and shelters to aid other Californians during this time
- Update your suppliers and long-term clients to alert them about any changes in business operation or scheduling
- [Learn more](#) about supporting our medical professionals and the fight against COVID-19
- Visit energyupgradeca.org to learn more

Energy Upgrade California is committed to helping you save on energy bills and reduce wasteful energy consumption as we navigate through this pandemic.



For more info, visit energyupgradeca.org

8 TIPS FOR FOOD SERVICE BUSINESSES TO STAY ENERGY EFFICIENT



Tip
1



Properly dispose of your incandescent bulbs and pick up some LEDs

LED bulbs use 25%–30% of the energy and last 8 to 25 times longer than halogen incandescent bulbs. Less time climbing ladders and more time keeping your customers happy.

Tip
2



Install motion sensor lights

You'll never again have to remember to flip the switches off before you leave a room if you install motion-activated lights. Using less artificial light is one of the easiest ways to cut down on energy costs.

Tip
3



Install low-flow faucets

In bathroom and kitchen sinks, low-flow faucets reduce excessive use of water. Heating water can be extremely costly so using less is better for your energy bill and California's reservoirs.

Tip
4



If you have an old water heater tank, wrap it with an insulating jacket

Be careful not to cover the air intake valve, giving your water heater a coat can save up to 10% on water heating costs.

Tip
5



Use a programmable thermostat

You can save an extra 10% on annual heating and cooling costs by installing programmable thermostats that will regulate the temperature of your building. For more savings, setting that thermostat just one degree warmer than you normally would in the summertime will typically save you 2-3% on cooling costs.

Tip
6



Change air filters regularly

While the lifespan of an air filter can vary from product to product, it's important to regularly check your HVAC equipment's filters. A good rule of thumb is to change your air filter any time it looks dirty, no matter how long ago you replaced it. A dirty air filter makes the HVAC system work harder and reduces air flow anyways, costing you money and potentially turning into a bigger issue that requires mechanical maintenance.

Tip
7



Insulate and seal ducts

Sealing and insulating ducts properly can help reduce up to 20% of a cooling system's energy consumption.

Tip
8



Become a Certified Green Business

Don't know where to start? Check with your local energy provider to assist your business in reducing its carbon footprint.

GREEN

CALIFORNIA
GREEN BUSINESS
NETWORK

The [California Green Business Network](https://greenbusinessca.org) encourages all businesses to use (or find) an organization or group that can assist in reducing your energy use.

For more information, visit <https://greenbusinessca.org/how-to-get-certified/>.

Keep it Golden

For more info, visit energyupgradeca.org

ONLINE CONFERENCES

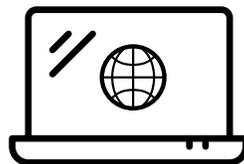


Are you hosting any webinars or conference calls?

Allow Energy Upgrade California to act as a resource for you during this challenging time. Include an Energy Upgrade California representative who could speak about tips that can help organizations and employees reduce their energy usage. We also can provide materials for distribution upon request.



If interested, please reach out to info@energyupgradecacommunity.org



Visit www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org/COVID-19-tips/#tips
for tips on how to reduce your energy usage.

Energy Upgrade California® is a statewide initiative committed to helping Californians be more energy efficient, utilize more sustainable natural resources, reduce demand on the energy grid and make informed choices about their energy use at home and at work—all of which goes a long way for California.

SMALL BUSINESS USEFUL LINKS



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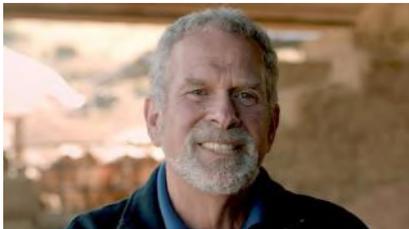
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ENERGY HEROES

Who Are California's Energy Heroes?

Get to know these extraordinary businesses who are doing their part to save energy and reduce their carbon footprint for California and the planet. This Small Business Saturday, we encourage you to support a small green business and their efforts to do their part.

Click on any hero below to learn more.



STRAUS FAMILY CREAMERY

Straus Family Creamery is using cow power to run their farms and produce 100% organic milk. Literally.



SIERRA NEVADA BREWING COMPANY

Sierra Nevada Brewing has become nearly independent from the grid, operating with clean and renewable energy sources.



SACRAMENTO ECO FITNESS

Sacramento Eco Fitness is harnessing human power. Learn how energy you spend at the gym could be used to power the gym itself—or other things.



EQUATOR COFFEES & TEAS

From sourcing beans to roasting them, Equator Coffees & Teas is reducing energy consumption and making an excellent product.



SADIE WADDINGTON: ONE BIG FISH EVENT PLANNING

Sadie, a small business owner, shows us how personalized events can also be kind to the environment.



FABIAN RODRIGUEZ: BELLA PASTA

Fabian is the owner of Bella Pasta, a real estate agent and an Energy Hero, living and running his small business in Fresno, California.



For more info, visit energyupgradeca.org

RESOURCE SHEET



Energy Upgrade California® is a statewide initiative with the purpose of ensuring every Californian has the tools needed to keep making strides toward a cleaner, healthier, more prosperous state. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we're helping Californians in their energy efficiency efforts to lessen their financial burdens in these unprecedented times while also continuing our quest to double energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% before 2030.

SAVING ENERGY WHILE SAFER AT HOME.

Many Californians are working from home, conducting school at home, and caring for children from home. As they use more electricity than normal, they may face higher energy bills as a result. At Energy Upgrade California, we know that small, energy-efficient actions can have a big impact on both our utility bills and our state—and its ability to help Keep it Golden.

HOW IS COVID-19 IMPACTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY?

- As Californians are practicing safe procedures and following public health guidelines by sheltering at home, it is likely that residential electric and natural gas usage will increase, which could lead to higher utility bills.
- Residential electric usage has increased 15 to 20% in recent weeks compared to the same period last year.

SMALL ACTIONS ADD UP.

Small energy inefficiencies in our homes can add up to big losses—both for our pocketbooks and for California. Here are a few things you can do from home:

DURING COLDER WEATHER

- USE NATURAL LIGHTING - Open blinds on sunny days to light and warm your home naturally.
- ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT - On cooler days, set thermostats to 68° or lower when awake and 62° or lower when asleep.



For more info, visit energyupgradeca.org

RESOURCE SHEET



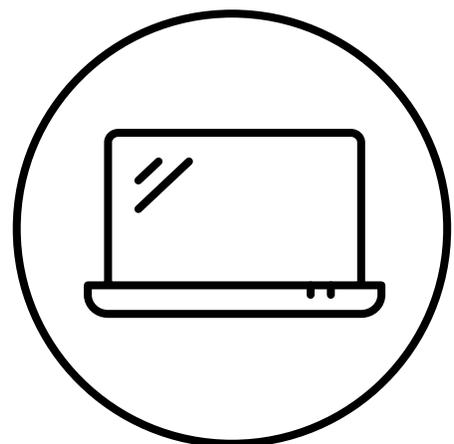
DURING WARMER WEATHER

- COOL DOWN WITH A FAN – Fans keep air circulating, allowing you to raise the thermostat a few degrees and stay just as comfortable while reducing air conditioning costs.
- ADJUST YOUR AC – Adjust your AC to 78 degrees or higher during the summer months.
- REPLACE AC FILTERS AS NEEDED – Dirty air filters make your air conditioner work harder to circulate air. By cleaning or replacing your filters monthly, you can improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.

ALL YEAR LONG

- UNPLUG UNUSED DEVICES - Make sure to unplug unused devices or turn off power strips when not in use.
- RUN THE DISHWASHER LESS OFTEN - If you have a dishwasher, be sure to wait until it's full to run it.
- ADJUST TECHNOLOGY SETTINGS - Turn down the brightness on your screens and use eco-friendly modes when possible. Put your computer in sleep mode or shut it down when not in use.
- IMPROVE YOUR HOME'S INSULATION – Improvements to insulation can help you stay warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer while reducing energy costs.

If you have questions about how to maximize energy savings, or protections and benefits available to you during the pandemic, contact your local energy provider or visit energyupgradeca.org for more information.



For more info, visit energyupgradeca.org