

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Summer Energy-Saving Guide for Small Business Customers



To help business and other non-residential customers who are working to recover from the losses incurred during the pandemic, IID has assembled a list of low-cost, no-cost energy-saving tips that can help reduce your electric bill.

AIR CONDITIONER

- Prepare your ACs for the summer. Your air conditioners generate a significant portion of your electric bill. Ensure they are running efficiently by having them serviced regularly.
- Routinely clean or replace the AC filter. Clogged air filters block regular airflow and affect the coil's heat-absorbing capacity, reducing your AC's efficiency.
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher while you are operating and raise the temperature when your business is closed, if possible.
- Upgrade to a next-generation thermostat that will learn your routine and preferences. (IID offers rebates on qualifying thermostats.)
- Use ceiling fans to cool for less. A ceiling fan allows you to raise the air conditioner's temperature setting up to 4° with no reduction in comfort. Be sure to rotate fans counter-clockwise in the summer to push air down for a cooler feel. Remember, fans cool people by creating a wind chill effect.
- Encourage casual dress in the summer to help employees feel comfortable and cooler so you can turn the thermostat to a higher setting.

EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES

- Put off using heavy-duty equipment, such as high-volume printers, between the peak hours of 4 and 8 p.m. during the summer months. Energy is most expensive during the peak hours, so by deferring the use of your energy-intensive equipment and appliances, you can help reduce your electric costs.
- Lower your water heater's temperature setting. Water heating accounts for approximately 14 to 18 percent of your utility bill. By reducing the temperature setting and using less hot water, you can save energy and money.
- Cover food stored in the in the employee breakroom refrigerator. Uncovered foods and liquids release moisture and make the refrigerator's compressor work harder.
- Don't make your refrigerator work too hard by keeping your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperature settings for the fresh food compartment are 35° to 38°F.
- Choose energy-efficient appliances and equipment. If you must make a purchase, choose ENERGY STAR® models that will save you money for years to come. Before buying, check IID's website for rebates and efficiency requirements.
- Retrofit display cases. Consider retrofitting display cases with anti-sweat door heater controls and variable-speed evaporator fan motors and controls.



Summer Energy-Saving Guide for Residential Customers



ELECTRONICS

- Plug electronics into smart power strips wherever feasible. Personal printers, computers and monitors are generally equipped with standby modes that make them convenient to use while continuing to use power. Smart power strips reduce your power usage by shutting off power to products that go into standby mode.
- Use the power management settings on computers and monitors. On Apple computers, such features can be found in System Preferences; on Windows-based computers, the System settings can be found after clicking the settings icon.
- Switch to laptops. Laptops use significantly less energy than desktop computers.
- Educate your employees about the proper protocol for shutting computers and monitors down. Turn off monitors that will not be used for more than 20 minutes and turn off CPUs (and monitor) if staff will be away for more than two hours.

DOORS AND WINDOWS

- Block the sun from overheating your facilities. Inside, use shades, blinds and drapes. Outside, use awnings, trees and shrubs.
- Apply sun-control or other reflective films on east, west and south-facing windows.
- Address leaks to make sure cool air is not escaping. Caulking and weatherstripping are easy, inexpensive and effective ways to reduce air leakage around doors and windows.

LIGHTING

- Replace any lightbulb that burns more than one hour per day, (including T12 and T8 bulbs) with LED ENERGY STAR® products. LEDs emit light without heat and will use up to 80 percent less energy and last 25 times longer.
- Install ENERGY STAR-qualified exit signs to reduce maintenance costs. An energy efficient exit sign can eliminate the expense of lamp replacement, saving up to \$10 dollars per sign annually in electricity costs alone.
- Automate security lights using timers or photoelectric controls so they turn on and off automatically.
- Install dimmers and/or occupancy sensors in appropriate locations to automatically turn off lighting.
- Use task lighting when reading or working on computers or paperwork.

TECHNOLOGY

- Hold virtual meetings. Technology enables us to meet without the use of illuminated and air-conditioned conference rooms and presentation equipment.
- Encourage employees to work from home. If conditions permit, allow employees to work from home on designated days. Using VPN (Virtual Private Network) technology, employees can now securely connect to your business's network.

