

# How Reducing Energy Use In Your Daily Operations Can Help Your Business



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## *Why should your business reduce energy use?*

### **Protect the Environment**

Idaho is fortunate to have a significant inventory of renewable resources that meets a large portion of its current energy needs. However, much of the energy used in the state is generated from fossil fuels that emit carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, mercury, particulate matter, and other pollutants when burned. Energy production from these sources also consumes large amounts of water and creates significant amounts of wastewater.

### **Save Your Company Money**

Reducing energy use has immediate consequences for your company's energy bills. Some items that are easily overlooked but have significant impacts on energy use include industrial lighting, compressed air, and space heating. Retrofitting or installing more energy-efficient features can reduce the energy that your company uses, and those features often come with financial incentives offered by utilities.

### **Engage Your Employees**

An energy savings plan may be directed company-wide and from all levels, which can help employees to better understand energy use in their own processes and to engage in reducing energy use or making their processes more efficient. Putting together a "green team" can be a long-term, sustainable means of ensuring continuous improvement in energy use in your company. See our brochure on how to create a green team by visiting our website at [www.deq.idaho.gov/pollution-prevention](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/pollution-prevention).

## *How can your business reduce energy use?*

### **Identify How Your Company Uses Energy**

The first step toward reducing the amount of energy your company uses is to understand how energy in your processes is being used, how much energy is being used, and what type of energy is being used. Isolating certain processes and specific equipment to determine energy use is an important way to target investment-worthy energy efficiency upgrades and process changes.

### **Consider a Targeted Energy Assessment**

Targeted energy assessments can identify how your company uses energy and any improvements that might be made to improve energy efficiency. For instance, energy assessments can identify industrial lighting needs and potential upgrades, compressed air leaks, heat loss from poor insulation, energy loss due to running equipment, process changes that can reduce electricity or natural gas demand, and a host of other potential energy efficiency improvements. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality works closely with Idaho TechHelp, the Small Business Development Center, the Office of Energy Resources, the Industrial Assessment Center, and public utilities to direct businesses to the services they need.

### **Install Upgrades or Change Processes**

A targeted energy assessment can identify upgrades or process changes that are right for your company. Installing more efficient lighting fixtures, fixing compressed air line leaks, turning off equipment when it is not being used, and recapturing waste heat from the manufacturing process for winter space heating are all examples of upgrades and process changes that can save your company money.

### **Focus on Continuous Improvement**

Because technologies and processes change, it is important to sustain your commitment to reducing energy use. Ensuring that your employees are engaged in identifying waste, developing company protocols that value efficiency and energy savings, and reevaluating energy use frequently can all reduce your energy demand, save you money, and keep your company competitive.