

Energy Facts and Conservation Tips

Across the U.S., state and local government agencies spend more than \$10 billion a year on energy to provide public services and meet constituent needs. In FY 2012/2013, Pima County spent \$14 million on energy to operate our facilities. During a time of budget constraints, growing demand for services, and shrinking environmental resources, Pima County is leading by example by conserving energy in its facilities and needs your help to further reduce energy consumption.

Energy Conservation and You: 8 Action Tips

1. Use energy efficiently: turn off lights, unplug electronic devices when not in use, close windows, click "log off" on your computer and turn off your monitor at the end of the day.
2. Adopt a light in the area where you work that is frequently left on. Whenever you see it left on by a coworker, be the one responsible for turning it off.
3. Use task lighting- turn off unnecessary lights and only use the ones you need to get the job done.
4. Open your blinds, turn off your lights, and take advantage of daylight when you can.
5. Be as energy smart at work as you are at home.
6. Recycle inefficient, obsolete electronics and replace them with an ENERGY STAR certified product when possible.
7. Replace traditional incandescent bulbs in your office with LED or CFL bulbs.
8. Select the "Print on Both Sides" option when printing.

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1. Save Money

- Powering Pima County Government operations for a year: \$14 million
- Replacing a single light fixture with an occupancy sensor to conserve electricity: \$80
- Turning off lights when not in use: Zero dollars
- Saving money and the planet... *Priceless*

2. Turn off lights

Turning lights on and off when not in use will not increase the amount of energy they consume or impact their lifespan. In fact, it will go a long way in saving energy. According to the Department of Energy (DOE) the power surge is so small that turning off a light for just 5 seconds will save more energy than will be consumed in turning them back on again. According to the Pima County Energy Manager, wearing out a bulb prematurely would require you to turn your lights on and off 20 to 50 times a day.

3. Use daylight

Optimizing daylight use in a typical building can provide 20 to 25% of the annual illumination needed and significantly reduce energy costs. In well-designed buildings, this number can reach up to 70%.

4. Use task lighting

Using more light than necessary to complete your work wastes energy. A 60 watt bulb will use 60 watts of energy per hour. You could conserve nearly 22,000 watts of energy per year by switching off just one bulb for one hour every day – enough to power one month worth of TV viewing.

5. Use energy efficient bulbs

LEDs (light emitting diodes) and CFLs (compact fluorescent bulbs) are far more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs and typically use 75-80% less energy than incandescent light bulbs. Because they conserve so much more electricity than traditional incandescent bulbs,

CFLs can pay for themselves in about six months and can last up to 8 years. LED bulbs can last up to 22.5 years and pay for themselves in just under three years. Unlike CFLs, LEDs do not contain mercury, making them safe for disposal. Please recycle your used CFL safely.

6. Use energy efficiently

On average it costs \$140 per year to power each employee's office. Interior lighting consumes 36% of the total electricity used in a typical office, and according to the DOE, 50% of that energy could be saved through improving efficiency.

7. Unplug it!

When left plugged in, some electronic devices still draw electricity from the outlet even if they are turned off. This is often referred to as a "vampire" or "phantom" load. The energy drawn by vampire loads goes unused and is wasted. This energy accounts for nearly 10% of the energy used in the US each year and costs consumers more than \$3 billion a year.

8. Log off at the end of the day

The Pima County Information Technology Department (ITD) has installed a "power-save program" on most County computers, which automatically places them in standby mode between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. on weekdays and on weekends.

The program saves the County more than \$58,000 a year and reduces CO2 emissions by nearly 450 tons. Logging off at the end of the day keeps your computer safe, and enables ITD to perform critical software updates while allowing this software to do its job.

