



Energy Use: Waste Less, Save More

Understanding the energy usage of a building is a key step toward sustainability, and ultimately aids in reducing energy consumption and costs. Among other tools to assess your building's energy efficiency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR® program aids in measuring your building's energy use and comparing it to similar buildings, just as you can compare the estimated miles per gallon for your automobile to other models.

According to the EPA, commercial buildings that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating use on average 35% less energy than comparable buildings and generate one-third less carbon dioxide. Additionally, these efficient buildings save 35% or more on energy costs. The EPA also claims that increasing concern about the financial and environmental risks associated with climate change is driving more organizations to strive for the ENERGY STAR for their buildings, as it is seen as a symbol of an organization that is working to reduce global warming and its impacts.

ENERGY STAR offers a tool called Portfolio Manager to assist in the data entry for energy-related building comparisons. Other resources and information about energy efficiency are available on the ENERGY STAR website.

For building managers, ENERGY STAR provides the following recommendations: regularly maintain building equipment and systems to make sure the building is operating as efficiently as possible; improve lighting systems; upgrade fan systems; and, after reducing the building's cooling loads, retrofit or install energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment.

Employees in offices can take small steps that



Did You Know...?

Commercial and industrial facilities account for half of all energy consumption in the U.S. at a cost of over \$200 billion per year, and nearly half of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: www.epa.gov

add up to big differences in energy consumption. Ensure your computer and monitor are both set to the proper power management settings to enable the power save mode when not in use. Keep air vents clear of clutter that can force air systems to work harder to keep the air ventilated. Also, use a power strip and turn it off when you leave for the day. Unplug electronics such as cell phones and laptops once they are charged. Adapters plugged into outlets use energy even if the battery is fully charged. Use a compact fluorescent energy saving bulb at your desk.

Have questions about energy and efficiency? Great Forest consultants are experienced with tools such as the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager and can assist your building with becoming ENERGY STAR rated by putting efficiency into practice. Tenants interested in energy efficiency can also contact Great Forest for information.

More Information:

www.energystar.gov – U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR website

*Happy New Year
From Great Forest*

Eco-Friendly Conferences & Meetings

Whether organizing a small internal office meeting or attending an international conference, here are some steps your business can take to have a lighter impact on the planet at events:

Limit Paper Handouts: Rather than handing out multiple copies of articles or brochures at conferences and meetings, have a signup sheet for people who would like to be emailed electronic versions of the documents. When possible, email meeting agendas and notes ahead of time and limit printed copies that attendees can share.

Think Virtual: Many successful conferences are now taking place online, cutting all the carbon emissions associated with traveling to a conference location, as well as saving time and money in the process. A few to check out: gotomeeting.com, freeconference.com, vyew.com.

Reduce Transportation Emissions: When virtual meetings are not possible, carpool and consider carbon offsets to account for your travel.

Reduce Waste: Be sure to always set up properly labeled recycling bins next to trash receptacles at conferences to make proper waste disposal easy. Educate attendees about recycling.

Reuse Materials: Always opt for reusable nametags at conferences, and reuse them at future conferences. If food and drinks are provided, use reusable dishware when possible.

Educate Others About Going Green: If you host a green conference or meeting, tell the attendees about it. Sharing your knowledge about how to host a green event will encourage others to consider the environment during events as well.

Contact Great Forest for more ideas on greening your office's events and meetings.

More Information:

www.epa.gov/oppt/greenmeetings - EPA site on hosting and attending green meetings

www.meetingstrategiesworldwide.com – A leader in event planning with a green focus

www.greeneventsource.com – Products and services to help you host a green event



Great Forest Clients In The News

Hotel Penn

Built in 1918, Hotel Penn is one of New York City's oldest hotels. Thanks to the implementation of energy saving technologies and a management commitment to sustainability it is also one of the most efficient. Located at 401 Seventh Avenue, Hotel Penn has recently received a 2008 ENERGY STAR label, marking its superior energy performance. *See article on previous page for more information about ENERGY STAR.*

Met Life

NYC's Met Life building located in Long Island City has been awarded LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance. The USGBC LEED standard, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is awarded to buildings that meet certain criteria for green buildings, from energy efficiency to location to recycling programs.

Studies Predict Green Growth

McGraw-Hill Construction recently released several reports in which they forecast growth and a jump in growth and profits in green construction throughout the US and around the world.

In the 40-page *Green Outlook 2009: Trends Driving Change*, they predicted a possible tripling in eco-friendly construction by 2013. The value of green building has grown five-fold from 2005 to 2008. If the market triples by 2013, green construction could reach a value of \$140 billion, according to the report.

"Green growth is phenomenal across the globe," Harvey M. Bernstein, McGraw-Hill Construction's vice president of Industry Analytics, Alliances and Strategic Initiatives, said in a statement announcing the report. "The business opportunities afforded by green building, even in the midst of a global economic crisis, are real and recognized by industry players."

More Information:

www.greenerbuildings.com/news/2008/11/19/green-building-could-triple – Article from *Greener Buildings* website