



IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

1410 North Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0502

www.deq.idaho.gov

Energy Conservation Tips for Local Governments

For Your Community

- Include energy efficiency requirements in city building codes.
- Change traffic lights to light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures. These are 80% to 90% more efficient and last 10 times longer than regular lights. The city of Denver expects to save \$357,000 annually in labor and energy each year when their conversion is complete.
- Design alternative transportation options such as sidewalks, bike paths, and mass transit into city planning and development.
- Provide incentives to residents and city employees who use mass transit.
- Convert fleets (buses, vans) to run on alternative fuels such as natural gas.
- Plant trees and other plants throughout the city to help counter the urban heat island effect caused by concrete and pavement and to make your city more enjoyable for your residents.

Government Buildings

- Develop an energy plan that includes long term goals for energy conservation, building and equipment maintenance, and regular energy audits.
- Evaluate lighting needs. Remove unnecessary light bulbs such as those near windows, in vending machines and other areas with natural or excess lighting.
- Retrofit lighting. Replace incandescent bulbs with fluorescent ones. Replace T-12 florescent bulbs with T-8 bulbs and the appropriate ballast.¹
- Install timers on lights.
- Purchase energy efficient equipment such as copiers, fax machines and computers that power down when not in use.
- Evaluate heating and cooling systems. Install adjustable thermostats to adjust heating and cooling systems. For optimal energy savings, set thermostats at 78° F for cooling in the summer and 68° for heating in the winter. At night or weekends, if the building is unoccupied, the optimum heating temperature can be lowered to 55° F.
- Add trees or a berm around buildings to provide shade in the summer and protection against wind in the winter – lowering heating and cooling costs and saving money.
- Contact your local utility to request a free energy audit of your buildings and to suggest solutions to conserve energy.

For More Information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA's Energy Star Program

EnergyIdeas

Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network

Idaho Department of Water Resources

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

www.epa.gov

www.energystar.gov

www.energyideas.org

www.nwalliance.org

www.energy.gov

www.eren.doe.gov

www.idwr.idaho.gov

www.deq.idaho.gov

¹ Note: Fluorescent lighting contains mercury and should be recycled or properly disposed. Visit DEQ's on-line recycling directory at www.deq.idaho.gov/recycling/recycling-directory for services in your area.