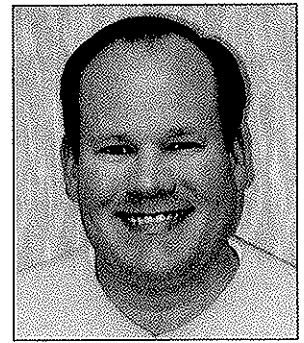


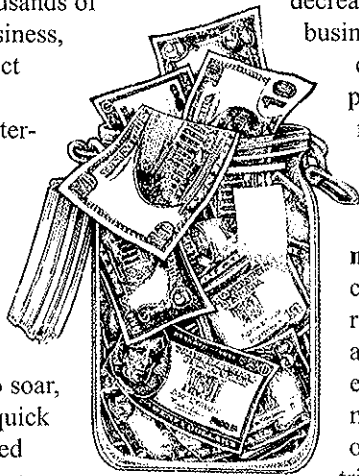
Go Green To Save Some Green

By Will Rogers, Director of Governmental Affairs



Will Rogers

If you were losing thousands of dollars a year in your business, wouldn't you try to correct the problem? Every year many businesses waste literally thousands of dollars on electricity, road fuel and natural gas usage. This problem not only impacts the bottom line, it also adversely affects our planet. As energy prices continue to soar, taking advantage of the quick and easy suggestions listed below will not only save you some money, but make your business more competitive as well.



decrease the temperature after business hours (specifically during the 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. period) to dramatically reduce your heating and cooling bills.

Turn off computers at night: The idea that most computers need to be left running is nothing more than a myth. No matter what energy savings feature you may use, leaving computers on at night just wastes electricity. So, unless you are backing up the server, consider switching off your computers every night.

Replace incandescent light bulbs: Many businesses have already changed most of their lighting to fluorescent fixtures. New technology has further enhanced the use of fluorescent lighting though the Compact Fluorescent Light bulb (CFL).

These "snow cone" shaped bulbs use less than 25 percent of the energy of a regular incandescent light bulb, put out the same amount of light, and are retrofitted with built-in ballasts so they can be used in almost any existing incandescent light fixture. And, through a number of energy saving programs, CFLs can be purchased for less than one dollar each. CFLs also have the advantage of lasting up to five years in some cases—so once you have changed out your light bulbs, you can put away the ladder for a while.

Fleet vehicles: There are several things that you can do to improve the efficiency of your current fleet vehicles and save money on road fuel costs. One way to improve efficiency is to encourage your employees to change their driving habits by easing off the gas pedal a little.

According to *Consumer Reports* magazine, a vehicle loses up to 12 percent fuel economy for every five miles per hour it is operated over 60 mph. This may not seem like a lot, but it adds up quickly. The amount of time lost by driving 60 mph as opposed to 75 mph is only 15 minutes in an hour trip. However, it also results in a loss of over 35 percent (or worse) in terms of fuel economy. Instead of a gallon of road fuel costing \$3.00 a gallon, it now costs over \$4.00 a gallon to operate. A couple other quick fixes to improve vehicle fuel efficiency include ensuring your tires are properly inflated and keeping your air filters clean.

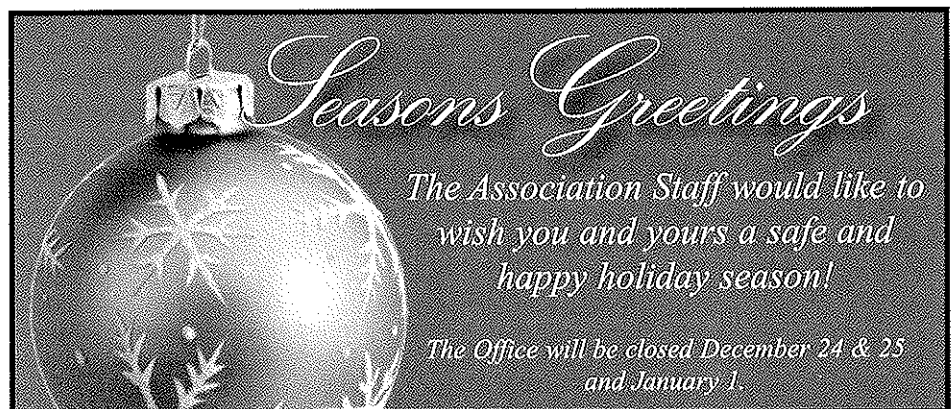
If you would like to research other ways you can improve your businesses energy efficiency and enhance your bottom line visit the following websites: www.eere.energy.gov/ or www.energystar.gov/.

Remember, by going green you really can save some green! ■

Conduct an energy audit: Call your local utility provider and ask them to conduct an energy audit of your business. Depending on the utility provider, they may charge up to \$1,000 to inspect your business and take several hours to perform an audit. While initially this may seem too expensive to consider, an energy audit has the potential to save you hundreds of thousands of dollars over the long run.

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Programmable thermostats: Just like in your home, a programmable thermostat can help lower your monthly utility bill. Keep the temperature comfortable while your employees are at work and program your thermostat to increase or



Seasons Greetings

The Association Staff would like to wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

The Office will be closed December 24 & 25 and January 1.