



iMPACT NV

Small Business Sustainability Guide

Level 1 - Getting Started

What can I do?

1

Contact local energy providers to see if they offer commercial energy assessments

2

Participate in the commercial rebate programs through Southwest Gas. (Rebates are available for natural gas saving equipment including: furnaces, tankless water heaters, fryers, conveyor ovens, dish washers, pre-rinse spray valves, and more!)

3

Replace any incandescent lighting and inefficient florescent fixtures (where feasible) with energy efficient lighting (such as compact fluorescent, LED, or T5 or T8 fluorescent lighting).

4

Insulate your water heater and set the water temperature to 120 degrees.

Why should I do it?

A professional review of your energy usage can help your business understand the amount of energy you are using, establish a baseline, and identify areas for reducing usage and saving energy and money.

By improving your facility with high efficiency natural gas equipment, your business can be more energy efficient and environmentally responsible while maximizing your business potential.

<https://www.swgas.com/en/search/rebates-and-promotions>

Efficient lighting solutions last longer, save you money on your energy bills, and requires less cooling.

https://www.energystar.gov/products/lighting_fans/light_fixtures

You can save \$12-\$30 annually for each 10°F reduction and it will slow mineral build-up and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/services/do-it-yourself-energy-savings-projects/savings-project-lower-water-heating>

Level 1 - Continued

What can I do?

5

Conduct a water assessment (self guided walkthrough) of your facility as a first step to understanding how water is used and to identify opportunities for improvement.

6

Place accessible recycling bins in all office areas, at desks, in common areas, and outside the building.

7

Implement a carpooling program for employees.

8

Replace all single use and disposable products with reusable and washable alternatives, such as cups, plates, bowls, utensils. Avoid any and all Styrofoam products.

9

Reduce paper use through paperless billing, paperless communications, or converting another process to paperless.

10

Use green cleaning products or employ a green cleaning service.

Why should I do it?

Understanding your water usage will help you know where you are using water, how much, and what it is costing your business as well as help identify areas to conserve.

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/commercial-buildings>

The more bins available, and the more convenient they are, the more likely your employees are to use them.

<https://www.republicservices.com/businesses>

Carpooling reduces each person's travel costs such as fuel and maintenance. It is also less stressful and a more sustainable way to travel as sharing journeys reduces carbon emissions, traffic congestion on the roads, and the need for parking spaces.

<https://www.rtcsv.com/ways-to-travel/club-ride/>

Reusable products reduce waste and divert plastic and paper goods from the landfill.

Going paperless can help you get more organized, communicate more efficiently and inexpensively, and will save you money on paper and printer/ink expenses.

Use lower toxicity/low VOC products to reduce air pollution and exposure (look for GreenSeal certified items)

<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products>

Level 2 - Next Steps

What can I do?

1

Install a renewable energy system to offset your energy use (i.e.. solar, wind, geothermal, etc.).

2

Have or purchase ENERGY STAR appliances.

3

Manage stormwater resources or use water harvesting techniques when possible and allowed in your jurisdiction.

4

Participate in SNWA's Turf removal program and receive the WaterSmart Landscapes rebate.

5

Provide on-site food waste collection and disposal. Choose to compost, or dispose of through a local farm, community garden, etc.

Why should I do it?

Powering even a portion of your energy needs through renewables can lower your power bill and has less impact on the environment than conventional technologies

<https://www.seia.org/initiatives/solar-investment-tax-credit-itc>

ENERGY STAR certified appliances help consumers save money on operating costs by reducing energy use without sacrificing performance.

<https://www.energystar.gov/products/appliances>

When stormwater is absorbed into soil, it is filtered and ultimately replenishes aquifers or flows into streams and rivers. In developed areas, impervious surfaces such as pavement and roofs prevent precipitation from naturally soaking into the ground.

<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1564.pdf>

Keeping a lawn green and healthy in Southern Nevada requires more water than a rain forest. For each square foot of lawn that is converted to Water Smart Landscaping 55 gallons of water are saved.

<https://www.snwa.com/rebates/wsl/index.html>

By collecting food waste and delivering it to an alternative source it gets put to good use to feed animals or fertilize plants, as opposed to being sent to a landfill.

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food>

Level 2 - Continued

What can I do?

6

Provide bus vouchers to employees if located within 1/2 mile of transit stop.

7

Install an electric vehicle charging station at your facility.

8

Install a water filtration system for reusable bottles.

9

Organize or participate in at least one volunteer event in the community quarterly.

10

Provide employee showers and locker or changing rooms.

Why should I do it?

Currently, Americans use more energy for transportation than for commercial, residential or industrial use. Did you know that buses emit 80% less carbon monoxide than the average car? Switching to public transit can also have a huge impact on gasoline use.

<https://www.rtcenv.com/ways-to-travel/schedules-maps/maps-guides/>

Encourage the use of electric vehicles by employees and customers. This helps reduce overall emissions related to travel to and from your business.

Tacitly encourage employees to bring reusable water bottles, and discourage the use of single use plastic bottles.

Volunteer for Earth Day, Get Outdoors NV Day, or any other event/organization to have a direct impact on your community and increase employee moral.

Offering showering and changing facilities encourages biking to work as well as pre, mid, or post work day fitness activities.