

ENERGY SAVING IDEAS

Online Resource Teaches Energy Efficiency

(NAPSA)—Thermostat wars, computer screen glares, distracting noises and stale smells—can you see the sunlight from your cubicle? These distracting scenarios may sound uncomfortably familiar to many office workers.

There is a solution to help increase workplace comfort while decreasing energy use. Energy-saving measures can have a great impact on quality of life for workers, increased productivity and a better bottom line. According to one study, a one percent improvement in worker productivity can mean a ten percent improvement in profits.

Some energy saving innovations include:

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs and other efficient lighting technologies save energy and money.
- Most office equipment wastes energy as it sits idle; equipment with built-in power management features can greatly reduce energy use by switching to low-energy mode when not in use. Look for ENERGY STAR qualified motors and transformers when replacing office equipment.
- The use of daylighting, operable windows and raised flooring with under floor ventilation can maximize energy efficiency.
- Heat pumps are generally more energy efficient than furnaces and boilers, and provide both heating and cooling. Air-source heat pumps powered by both natural gas and electricity are available with the government's ENERGY STAR label for energy efficiency.
- Any hot water that goes down your drain carries away energy with it. Drainwater heat recovery systems save energy by using the heat in drains to pre-heat water coming into the water heater.



An informative Web site, [Betterbricks.com](http://www.betterbricks.com), can help make workers more comfortable in their offices and their bosses more comfortable about the bottom line.

- Building owners can provide a more comfortable room temperature for the building occupants through the use of: individualized comfort controls; appropriately sized HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) systems; zoning within the building; thermal glazed windows; and HVAC design that leaves room for flexibility in the office floorplan.
- Existing systems can be checked for proper performance.
- Airflows can be balanced and adjusted.

These tips come from the experts at [Betterbricks.com](http://www.betterbricks.com), an information sharing program sponsored by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, a non-profit partnership of electric utilities, state governments, public interest groups and industry representatives from Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. The Alliance works to provide affordable, energy efficient products to the businesses and residents of the Northwest.

You can learn more online and evaluate your own workspace at www.betterbricks.com.