



HIGH FIVE

An award program for local businesses who want to boost efficiency, save money, and help the planet in the process.

Pilot Program



What is it?

How do I do it?

Inside, you will find **41** eco-friendly actions that your business can implement to earn up to **80** points. The more actions you implement, the more points you receive! The more points you receive, the more notoriety you will gain!

15
Points

SINGLE Plaque + Sticker



25
Points

DOUBLE 2nd Sticker



35
Points

TRIPLE 3rd Sticker



“High Five” businesses will be recognized on the City website and in the Elk River Star News.

In addition, the business that earns the most points in a calendar year will receive the “High Five Business of the Year Award,” be recognized by the Chamber of Commerce, and receive premium signage. The top three winners at the end of the year will receive up to \$200 in utility bill credit or in Chamber Bucks to spend at hundreds of Elk River Area businesses!



We want to make accomplishing these recommendations as easy as possible. Actions are split into various categories and given a recommended order. For each action, you will find:

- General costs along with benefits and paybacks
- Applicable rebates and where to find them
- Resources and suggestions for implementation
- The types of businesses that would most benefit
- An applicable case study (if available)
- The point value for successful completion of the action

Why do it?

How do I receive credit?

The idea of doing more with less is simply good business. Save thousands of dollars! Let us reward you for doing something that's good for business and good for the planet. It's a win-win-win!

Once you have completed an action, let us know by calling the City of Elk River Environmental Department at 763.635.1000 or email EnergyCity@ElkRiverMN.gov

Table of Contents

Waste Management.....3

Energy Conservation and Lighting.....7

Heating,Ventilation, and Cooling Systems.....11

Water Conservation.....14

Employee Initiatives.....17

Purchasing.....20

Miscellaneous.....23

Checklist.....27

Resources.....28





WASTE MANAGEMENT

IN THIS SECTION: 12 POINTS



1. Institute a Business Recycling Program
2. Provide deskside recycling containers
3. Remove disposables from employee lunch areas
4. Recycle an item on the MN Materials Exchange
5. Receive a waste audit
6. Institute an Organics Recycling Program
7. Work with janitorial staff to ensure that materials are recycled

Institute a Business Recycling Program			
Institute a Business Recycling Program			2 Points
<p><i>You pay less for recycling than you do for trash collection. The more you recycle, the more you save, it's that simple. In addition, the MPCA will be increasing recycling requirements in the future anyway - Get ahead of the curve!</i></p>			
Costs	Payback/Benefits	Grants	Business
Low to none	Divert recyclables from your trash to downsize your dumpster and save money in disposal costs	The Recycling Association of MN provides grants for free or reduced cost recycling containers	All
Resources and Suggestions			
<p>Form a recycling committee among co-workers to educate others and carry out activities.</p> <p>Go to www.ElkRiverMN.gov to find a list of sites to take recycled products.</p> <p>Minnesota Waste Wise will help your business form a plan to start saving and reduce costs.</p>			
Case Summary			
<p>The Grand Avenue Veterinary Center worked with MN Waste Wise to increase their recycling efforts and cut costs. They identified non-hazardous medical waste that could be recycled in the single stream bins. By putting a colored recycling bin next to each trash can, employees were more prone to recycle. The Center also got rid of their bottled water and added a water filter and reusable cups. Monthly bills were cut by 40% and they save \$2,040/year.</p>			
<p>http://www.mnwastewise.org/</p>			

Provide Deskside Recycling Containers to all Employees

1 Point

*Make recycling as easy as possible. It should be easier to recycle than it is to throw away.***Costs**

Any container costs in which to place recyclables; \$0 to \$15 per bin

Payback/Benefits

Substantially increased recycling rates, thus lowering your trash bill

Rebates

None available

Business

Office

Resources and Suggestions

Containers can be purchased in bulk from various companies. The average office worker discards 1.5 pounds of paper per day. You may also choose to add containers in other locations around the office (kitchens, hallways, conference rooms, open spaces, etc.)

Case Summary

TD Canada Trust Bank supplied deskside recycling containers to all tellers at all of its 1,100 retail branch locations in Canada. The result was a massive increase in collection of recyclables, a large decrease in disposal costs, and a model business practice that they could showcase to the general public.

<http://www.tdcanadatrust.com/easyweb5/crr-2011/environment/operations/paper.jsp>

Remove Disposable Utensils/cups/plates from Employee Lunch Areas

1 Point

*You'll never have to throw away another plastic spoon or Styrofoam™ cup ever again. And better yet, you'll never have to purchase them either.***Costs**

Some upfront costs to replace or add re-usable utensils in lieu of disposables.

Payback/BenefitsReduced waste production and thus smaller disposal fees
Save money on utensils**Rebates**

None available

BusinessOffice Bldgs
Restaurant
Large**Resources and Suggestions**

Form a "Green Team" in your business with interested employees to implement money-saving ideas.

Allow employees to purchase items that will fund the team and accomplish cost savings at the same time.

Replace any non-reusable item with a re-usable item and clean them in a dishwasher.

Case Summary

Communications Systems, Inc. in Minnetonka removed all Styrofoam™ cups and plastic utensils from break/lunch areas and replaced them with re-useable alternatives such as mugs and SpudWare® (utensils made from potatoes). This saves over 24,000 cups and 180,000 utensils each year from being landfilled. It also saves the company \$10,000 per year in costs.

<http://archives.ecmpublishers.info/2010/10/07/elk-river-kicks-off-business-recycling-program/>

Recycle an Item on the Minnesota Materials Exchange

2 Points

“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” The best form of recycling is making this saying come true. The exchange is run by the University of Minnesota and allows businesses to give-away or sell unwanted items.

Costs

None

Payback/Benefits

Avoid sending items to a landfill and paying disposal fees for certain items

Rebates

None available

Business

All

Resources and Suggestions

Check out www.mnexchange.org. The site allows you to post unwanted items and to pick up available items from other businesses. If there’s something your business needs, first check the Exchange. You can also earn credit for this action if you have an example of directly working with another business to share resources or another service such as www.craigslist.org. (You are not restricted to solely working with the MME.)

Case Summary

EI Microcircuits of Mankato uses the exchange to give away thousands of pounds of packaging material each year to businesses that need them. This action has kept their disposal costs stable despite huge increases in production.

www.mnexchange.orgwww.craigslist.org**Receive a Waste Assessment or Audit**

2 Points

Almost all haulers offer waste audits. A professional from the hauler will come into your business, analyze your waste stream, recommend ways to reduce the stream, and help select the best waste options for your business.

Costs

Most audits are free

Payback/Benefits

Reduce your waste
Pay less for removal

Rebates

None available

Business

All

Resources and Suggestions

Contact your hauler about receiving a waste audit. Audits are also available from groups such as Minnesota WasteWise, the Minnesota Retired Environmental Technical Assistance Program (RETAP), and the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP).

See the Resources Page for contact information.

Case Summary

The Thunderbird Hotel and Convention Center in Bloomington received a waste audit from MNTAP. Following the audit, they implemented new practices and saved \$919 per month in disposal costs while reducing their land-filled waste by 50%.

http://www.solidwastedistrict.com/projects/waste_audit.htm

Institute an Organics Recycling Program	3 Points
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Organics recycling is the future of recycling, diverting compostable waste from the landfill and turning it into usable soil. It is yet another way to reduce your garbage disposal costs. Approximately 25% of our waste is compostable.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
Potential costs for bins; compostable bags	Organics recycling is not taxed and service is often much cheaper than for normal trash	None available	Restaurants Schools Large

Resources and Suggestions

Contact your hauler to arrange a waste audit. This will let you know approximately how much of your waste is organic and can be composted. Once you have this information, you can make a choice on how much to downsize your trash dumpster and how large you would like your organics dumpster or cart to be.

Case Summary

From the Star Tribune: “In restaurants, it’s estimated that at least 80 percent of trash is compostable. Corner Table of Minneapolis owner Scott Pampuch has reduced his waste bill by nearly 50% by recycling about 95% of his waste (including organics recycling). The amount of garbage he throws away has been reduced to the size of a regular residential garbage bin.” <http://www.startribune.com/local/west/16161907.html>

<http://www.mnwastewise.org/success-stories/success-story-cafe-latte-discovers-recipe-for-success/>

Work with Janitorial Staff to Ensure that Materials are Recycled	1 Point
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Janitorial staff work intimately with your waste and are the ones literally taking out the trash and recyclables. They are a big key to reducing your waste stream.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
Low to none	Can potentially find better ways to recycle and reduce waste	None available	Any with janitorial staff

Resources and Suggestions

Host biannual meetings with your janitorial staff to discuss trash/recycling procedures and to see if they have any suggestions for improvement. Get their input and their help with any new programs that you are considering. Make sure that staff is properly disposing of waste.

Additional Suggestion

If you have a janitorial contract, ensure that recycling is required in the contract. Contact your waste hauler for a list of what can and cannot be recycled. Post the information above trash and recycling bins and in janitorial closets.

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCAQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2F>



ENERGY CONSERVATION AND LIGHTING

IN THIS SECTION: 17 POINTS

1. Completely switch to energy efficient lighting
2. Shut off all electronic equipment the end of the work day
3. Install vending misers on all refrigerated vending machines
4. Receive an energy audit from a certified professional
5. Install occupancy sensors for lighting
6. Facility system optimization
7. Install a renewable energy



Completely Switch to Energy Efficient Lighting		3 Points	
<p><i>Studies show that business lighting costs account for 30-50% of your energy bill. This is even higher if your business is open long hours, at night, or if you have limited natural lighting. Upgrading your lighting is often a profitable action.</i></p>			
<p>Costs</p> <p>Mid to high initial costs depending upon lighting upgrade</p>	<p>Payback/Benefits</p> <p>Paybacks can range from 1-6 years, depending upon the project</p>	<p>Rebates</p> <p>Available from your utility Grants may be available</p>	<p>Business</p> <p>All Office Warehouse</p>
<p>Resources and Suggestions</p> <p>LEDs are currently the best bet for your business. They last the longest, have low maintenance costs because they rarely need to be replaced, and have the lowest energy usage. Many installers will even offer warranties on their LED products. A simple upgrade from outdated T-12 to T-8 fluorescent lighting may also provide large savings for your business. Contact your utility to receive a lighting walkthrough.</p>			
<p>Case Summary</p> <p>A.O.K. Auto Body in Philadelphia, PA has shrunk their energy bill by replacing 400 8-foot T-12s in 200 fixtures with 800 4-foot T-8s in 400 fixtures. Also by taking out the magnetic ballasts that regulate the T-12s and replacing them with electronic ballast. The energy efficiency upgrades are ongoing, but it's estimated that A.O.K. is already saving approximately \$5,577 a year. The original investment was an estimated \$7,832, yielding a payback of 1.4 years.</p>			
<p>http://www.elkriverutilities.com/pages/lighting1</p>		<p>https://www.sba.gov/content/</p>	

Shut off all Electronic Equipment at the End of the Work Day	2 Points
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Leaving computers turned on at the end of the day is perhaps the biggest unnecessary drain on a business' overhead costs. Each computer can add an extra \$35—\$70 in electricity costs each year if left on during non-business hours.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
None	Save \$35-\$70 per computer each year “off” versus “on”	None	Office Schools Restaurants

Resources and Suggestions

Shutting down computers and other electronic equipment at the end of the day not only saves money through reduced energy costs, it also reduces wear and tear on the computer itself, effectively increasing its usable lifespan. Leaving your computers on all the time wears out your hard drive and power supply much more rapidly. During the day, you can activate “standby mode” for even further energy savings.

Case Summary

About a year ago, Ford Motor Company began mandating computer shutdowns at the end of the workday in Dearborn, Michigan. It is estimated that this saves the company \$1.2 million each year in energy costs. In addition, Goodrich High School in Genesee, Michigan saves over \$230 per month for each computer lab (35-40 computers) shut down during non-school hours.

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2009/04/study_shows_turning_off_comput.html

Install Vending Misers on all Refrigerated Vending Machines	2 Points
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Purchasing and installing a vending miser for a refrigerated machine will reduce the machine's energy costs by an average of 35%. If you have refrigerated vending machines, this action is a must.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
\$50 to \$200 prior to rebate	Payback usually ranges from 8 months to 2 years.	Available at your utility. Most offer a 50% rebate up to \$75.	Any with vending machines

Resources and Suggestions

Vending machines consume 2,500 to 4,400 kWhs per year. This is a lot of electricity. Many vending machine companies have miser purchase programs which allow you to buy misers and have them installed at reduced rates. If your machines are rented, ask your company if they have such a program. If you own your own machines, check out <http://www.vendingmiserstore.com/> for more information on vending misers.

Case Summary

A 2005 study by the Michigan Dept. of Labor & Economic Growth in Michigan Public Schools installed three vending misers in different schools in areas with varying student traffic and backgrounds. Savings for the three misers were 39%, 59%, and 80%, with respective cost savings of \$102, \$187, and \$253 per year.

<http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=4&ved=0CDIQFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vendingmiserstore.com/>

Receive an Energy Assessment from a Certified Professional**2 Points**

Energy assessments audits are a great way to pinpoint and target places to save energy, reduce waste, and increase efficiency. Most target all areas of your consumption, including heating fuel and electric use.

Costs

Free to \$600+ per audit

Payback/Benefits

Audits can pinpoint the best places to target your funds to save money over time.

Rebates

Available from most utilities paying for up to 50% of the audit

Business

All

Resources and Suggestions

These assessments or audits are offered by larger companies such as Elk River Municipal Utilities, CenterPoint Energy and Connexus Energy or via independent contractors. The Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) offers free audits to businesses as well.

Case Summary

In April 1997, Goody, Goody restaurant in St. Louis, MO signed up for an energy audit to get recommendations on improving energy usage. The energy audit showed that the lighting system was a high energy user and that there was room for improvement and savings. A few upgrades, later and the small mom and pop restaurant was saving \$1323 per year for a 1.5 year payback.

http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/small_business/sb_success/sb_successtories_goody.html

Install Occupancy Sensors for Lighting**2 Points**

Occupancy sensors take the thinking out of switching off lights. Installing them in bathrooms, conference rooms, classrooms, and offices can make a huge impact on your lighting costs.

Costs

\$10-\$20 per outlet switch, installed
\$50-\$150 for advanced systems

Payback/Benefits

29% to 60% reduction in lighting energy use per room installed
Payback is from 0.5 to 5 years

Rebates

Available from your utility

Business

Office
Schools

Resources and Suggestions

Check out a study by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association at the link below. The study details where and how to best use occupancy sensors in your building.

Ask your local electrician for a quote or audit for the set-up of occupancy sensors in your building.

Case Summary

A state office building in Connecticut spent \$51,000 to regulate the lighting of the entire building with occupancy sensors. This action reduced energy costs by \$24,000 annually. (www.sensorswitch.com/CaseStudies.aspx)

A 100 watt bulb left on for 10 hours uses 1,000 watts or 1kWh. That's equal to \$.13 cents!

https://www.google.com/search?q=nema+demand+reductions+pdf&sourceid=ie7&rls=com.microsoft:en-S:IEAddress&ie=&oe=&rlz=&gws_rd=ssl

Facility System Optimization**3 Points**

Go through the Commissioning or re-commissioning process for your facility. This is an intensive quality assurance process that ensures that the building operates as the owner intended and that building staff know how to operate it.

Costs

\$0.30-\$1.16/square foot for a new construction (0.4% of total construction cost)

Payback/Benefits

Up to 16% energy savings
Payback of 1-4 years

Loans

The Energy Efficiency Improvement Program offers loans.

Business

All

Resources and Suggestions

This process requires planning before the decision of a new construction. Benefits include: improved building occupant productivity, lower utility bills through energy savings, increased occupant and owner satisfaction, enhanced environmental/health conditions and occupant comfort, improved system and equipment function, improved building operation and maintenance, increased occupant safety, significant extension of equipment/system life cycle.

Case Summary

Twenty River Terrace, a 27-story, 293 unit, residential tower in Batter Park City, NY was commissioned in 2000. A number of issues were resolved prior to construction and the building is now 35% more efficient than NYS Energy Code and has annual energy cost savings of \$211,000. In addition, CO₂ emissions were reduced by 1,849 tons per year and there is a 16% peak demand reduction. (www.cacx.org/resources/commissioning.php)

<http://www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/energy-star-building-upgrade-manual-chapter-5-retrocommissioning>

Install a Renewable Energy**3 Points**

Help Minnesota reach its goal of 20% Renewable Energy by 2020 while saving electricity costs in an environmentally friendly manner.

Costs

Any costs for purchase and installation of a system.

Payback/Benefits

Depending upon the system, paybacks can range from a few years to decades.

Rebates and Loans

Available from your electric utility and State and Federal grants. Both PACE and EEIP provide loans. Tax credits.

Business

Any with the space to install a system.

Resources and Suggestions

Install equipment or devices that use renewable energy sources to generate electricity including solar electricity (photovoltaic), wind turbine, solar thermal, geothermal, hydroelectric, and/or biomass.

There are a number of resources and financing options available.

Case Summary

The Pops Farm in Royalton, MN installed a 10kW PV system and a 20 kW wind turbine in 2010. The total cost of the project was \$102,000 but grants and tax credits covered \$80,190 of the total cost! The simple payback time is 8 years for the PV unit and 12.6 years for the wind turbine. (<http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/popps-are-harvesting-solar-and-wind-energy-their-dairy-and-crop-farm>)

http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=US37F



HEATING, VENTILATION, AND COOLING SYSTEMS

IN THIS SECTION: 12 POINTS

1. Reduce thermostat level
2. Install & program a programmable or smart thermostat
3. Upgrade your building's HVAC system(s) to an energy efficient model
4. Upgrade to premium efficiency motors
5. Install a heat pump system used to heat or cool



Reduce Thermostat Level			
Reduce Thermostat Level			Up to 2 Points
<i>The cheapest heating fuel is the kind that you didn't have to use.</i>			
Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
None	Statistics show a 2-3% savings on heating bills per degree reduction on the thermostat (over 24hrs)	None	All
Resources and Suggestions			
<p>You can earn up to 2 points for implementing this action. 1 Point will be given for every proven 2-degree reduction during business hours and 1/2 point will be given for every proven 2-degree reduction during non-business hours.</p> <p>Reducing the thermostat also means that the blower fan will run less if it is on automatic, thus saving electricity.</p>			
Case Summary			
<p>APS Controls performed a study on night setbacks using programmable thermostats and found that using temperature reductions, and/or night setbacks can significantly reduce the run time of HVAC systems and their corresponding fan use, thus saving heating fuel, electricity, and money.</p>			
http://www.apscontrols.ca/serv01.htm			

Install and program a Programmable or Smart Thermostat**2 Point**

A programmable or smart thermostat is the best way to control the temperature of your building. By programming your thermostat you can have your heating/cooling fit to your schedule and save the most money possible.

Costs

\$50 to \$300

Payback/Benefits

Allows you to control your heating and cooling much more easily

Rebates

None available

Business

All

Resources and Suggestions

There are numerous models of programmable thermostats to choose from, consult your HVAC contractor or heating utility to ask which model will work best with your system. Remember to program the thermostat so that it automatically adjusts the indoor air temperature. Use different temperatures for occupied and unoccupied times.

Bonus Suggestions

- Savings have been found to range from 5% to 33% depending upon setbacks and if the thermostat is programmed correctly.
- Consumer Reports recommends the Lux TX9600TS or Honeywell RTH9590WF.

Learn how to install one: www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/files/CERTsCaseStudy_ThermostatInstall.pdf

Upgrade your Building's HVAC Systems to an Efficient Model**3 Points**

Heating, ventilation, and cooling systems make up a large bulk of your energy costs. However, a system that is old or operating inefficiently can brake your back... and the bank.

Costs

Any costs for installation/removal of the old and new systems; \$6k to \$20k+

Payback/Benefits

Depending upon the efficiency of the old and new systems, payback can be 5-10 years or less.

Rebates

Available from your electric utility for electric heat/cooling and from your gas utility for gas heating.

Business

All

Resources and Suggestions

www.energystar.gov has a veritable amount of information regarding energy efficient heating and cooling systems.

Make sure to have a contractor properly size your heating/cooling system for your building to ensure that you aren't buying too big or too small of a system.

Loans

The City of Elk River Economic Development Department can assist you in two micro loan programs.

PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) and the Energy Efficiency Improvement Program (EEIP) both offer financing for energy upgrades and improved efficiency. Contact the ED Department at 763.635.1000 for more information.

<http://www.elkrivernm.gov/index.aspx?nid=1085>

Upgrade to Premium Efficiency Motors	2 Points
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This investment can improve equipment reliability, reduce downtime and repair costs, and result in lower releases of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The motor can also repay its upgrade cost many times over its lifespan.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates and Loans	Business
Depends upon the size of the motor required for your HVAC system	Depending upon the previous motor's efficiency, payback can range from 3 months to 4 years	Available from your utility for replacement of existing motors. Pace and EEIP (page 12)	All

Resources and Suggestions

Make sure to check the efficiency and size of your current motor before deciding to upgrade. Potential savings can be calculated by using the following formula: (horsepower) x (load) x (0.746) x (hours of operation per year) x (100/current eff. — 100/new efficiency) x (Electricity cost per kWh). Check with your utility to make sure that you're buying a premium efficiency motor that meets the requirements to earn a rebate.

Case Summary

Anderson Printing replaced an old, 75-hp standard efficiency boiler forced-draft fan motor with a NEMA Premium efficiency motor. The cost savings for that motor alone totaled \$851 per year. (http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=3&ved=0CCoQFjAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.lakecountrypower.coop%2Fuserfiles%2FMotors%2520sell%2520sheet%25281%2520https://www.google.com/search?q=anderson+printing+boiler+upgrade&sourceid=ie/&rls=com.microsoft:en-US:IE-Address&ie=&oe=&rlz=&gws_rd=ssl#rls=com.microsoft:en-US:IE-Address&q=upgrade+to+premium+efficiency+motors)

https://www.google.com/search?q=anderson+printing+boiler+upgrade&sourceid=ie/&rls=com.microsoft:en-US:IE-Address&ie=&oe=&rlz=&gws_rd=ssl#rls=com.microsoft:en-US:IE-Address&q=upgrade+to+premium+efficiency+motors

Install a Heat Pump System used to heat or cool	3 Points
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Use the ground's renewable energy and improve your bottom line in the process.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates and Loans	Business
High upfront costs	Low operating cost, no on-site combustion, long life expectancy, low maintenance	Up to \$100,000 available from your electric utility Pace and EEIP (Page 12)	Any

Resources and Suggestions

Geothermal uses the solar energy stored in the ground to heat and cool your building and is up to 500% efficient. If you would like more information about geothermal, check <http://Minnesotageothermalheatpumpassociation.com/>. This site will also help you find a professional contractor in the area.

Case Summary

For economic benefits, visit <http://minnesotageothermalheatpumpassociation.com/geothermal/economics/>

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energy/topics/clean-energy/Ground-Source-Heat-Pumps.jsp>



WATER CONSERVATION

IN THIS SECTION: 8 POINTS

1. Optimize & reduce watering schedules
2. Post signage in business encouraging water conservation
3. Install water efficient aerators on all faucets
4. Improve kitchen dishwasher efficiency
5. If you have green space, use natural landscape techniques



Optimize and Reduce Watering Schedules			
Optimize and Reduce Watering Schedules			2 Points
<p><i>Excessive summer sprinkling can cause your water bill to skyrocket. Watering restrictions are in place by the city anyway. Experiment with your landscape to find out how much watering you truly need to do.</i></p>			
Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
None	Reduced water usage Save on your water bill Reduced mowing, maintenance	Rebates available from your water utility for up to \$500 for installing smart irrigation systems	Any with a landscape to water
Resources and Suggestions			
<p>Adjust your sprinklers so that only your landscape is watered and not the building, sidewalk, or street.</p> <p>Head over to Elk River Utilities and pick up a soil moisture meter, a simple device that tells you how much to water.</p> <p>Call your water utility to have a water audit conducted for your business.</p>			
Case Summary			
<p>In 2010, three Elk River businesses reduced their water irrigation usage 44%, 45%, and 57% by receiving a water audit from ERMU and installing a smart irrigation system. For each business, the cost savings paid for the irrigation systems in under two years. In the summer of 2010, the three businesses saved a combined 442,000 gallons of water and kept their grass just as green.</p>			
<p>http://www.hindawi.com/journals/jen/2013/620698/</p>			

Post Signage in Business Encouraging Water Conservation

1 Point

Water is perhaps our most precious resource, and it's certainly the most taken for granted. Do all you can to promote water conservation.

Costs

Small costs to produce signs

Payback/Benefits

Reduced water usage
Save money on water/sewer bill

Rebates

None available

Business

All

Resources and Suggestions

www.wateruseitwisely.com has a list of over 100 actions that you can take to reduce water use. Many of them can be done during the work day with simple and small changes in habits. Place the signs in areas with faucets (bathrooms, kitchens, etc.).

Additional Suggestion

Consider designating an interested employee as a water coordinator. He or she will involve others in efficiency efforts and will assist in the implementation of water conservation practices. This person should review the water bill monthly for indications of leaks, spikes in water use or other problems. They can also monitor whether or not posting signs has increased awareness and actually reduced your business' water use.

<http://www.clwa.org/business/>

Install Water Efficient Aerators on all Faucets

2 Points

Reduce the flow of water and cash currently going down the drain.

Costs

Low up-front costs
\$0.99—\$5 per aerator

Payback/Benefits

Reduced water usage by up to
50%
Save money on water/sewer bill

Rebates

None available

Business

Any with
bathrooms or
faucets

Resources and Suggestions

Most water efficient aerators run 0.5 to 1.5 gallons per minute. You can check your current faucets by looking for the flow rate on the side of the current aerator/faucet head. If it's not listed, you can use a flow meter bag courtesy of Elk River Municipal Utilities to check. Aerators are easily installed by screwing them on to the threads at the head of the faucet.

The Savings Math

If you can achieve a savings per faucet of 1 gallons per minute by reduced flow, and the faucet runs an estimated 15 minutes per work day, you save 300 gallons of water per month. If the water is heated, you save even more money by reduced use of natural gas. Water efficient or low-flow faucets are cheap, and the savings can really add up.

http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/products/bathroom_sink_faucets.html

Improve Kitchen Dishwasher Efficiency	1 Point
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This is very simple. Only run your dishwasher with full loads. Don't run it more than you need to.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
None	Reduced water usage Save money on water/sewer bill	None available	Office Any with dishwasher

Resources and Suggestions

Use “creative sorting” to pack in as many plates, pots, bowls, cups, and utensils as possible. Avoid using the “heated dry” option—simply open up the dishwasher and let it air dry. Use the “Energy Saving” cycle option if you have it. No award points are available for washing dishes by hand as studies show it to use more water and heating fuel.

The Savings Math

The dishwasher uses the same amount of water whether it's half-full or completely full. An older model can use up to 15 gallons of water and 2-3 kWh per load. An ENERGY STAR™ model is more efficient and uses only 3-5 gallons of water and 1 kWh of energy per load. The average household uses the dishwasher 215 times a year. This can amount to 645-3225 gallons of water and 215-645 kWh per year. This can cost up to \$212 a year just for the dishwasher! This doesn't include the cost to heat the water.

<http://www.energystar.gov/products/certified-products/detail/dishwashers>

If you have Green Space, use Natural Landscape Techniques	2 Points
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Natural landscaping means using native vegetation. This vegetation is much cheaper and easier to maintain, meaning that you can spend more time focusing on your business and not on your lawn care.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Grants	Business
Low to medium upfront costs for planting and seeding	Cheaper to install, requires less fertilization, requires much less maintenance, requires no watering	Some grants may be available	Businesses with green space

Resources and Suggestions

The Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) can advise you on what are the best types of grass and other plants to use on your property. Their services are free, and you can contact them online at www.sherburneswcd.org or by phone at 763.241.1170 (ext. 4).

Bonus Suggestion

A “no-mow” lawn mix of varied fescues is a great alternative to the traditional Kentucky blue grass. It requires almost zero mowing or maintenance and gives a good look to your lawn.

Some grants may be available depending on the amount of space and the type of your business. Contact the SWCD.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/index.html>



EMPLOYEE INITIATIVES

IN THIS SECTION: 5 POINTS



1. Mandate the recycling of paper, plastics, metal, and glass
2. Mandate duplex printing
3. Conduct all written communications via email
4. Encourage employees to bring lunch from home at least once per week
5. Encourage employee carools and provide incentives

Mandate the Recycling of Paper, Plastic, Metals, and Glass			1 Point
<i>Remember, the more you recycle, the more you can save via reduced garbage fees.</i>			
Costs	Payback/Benefits	Grant	Business
None except for the cost to implement a business recycling program.	Reduced disposal costs	Free or reduced cost bins from RAM	All Office
Resources and Suggestions			
A directive from the top is the best way to ensure that recycling takes place. Also, you can locate a group of employees that is enthusiastic about recycling and will help with the work involved. They can place recycling bins at each office/cubicle and monitor centralized trash/recycling stations with clear labels.			
Case Summary			
At Google's London office, employees aren't allowed to have trashcans at their desk. This prevents employees from quickly throwing away something that should be recycled. Instead, employees visit a centralized recycling station to sort out their garbage and recyclables. This surprisingly low-tech idea has led to a 50% increase in recycled products at the Google London location.			
http://thepapertiger.com/blog/10-tips-encouraging-recycling/			

Mandate Duplex Printing	1 Point
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One click of the mouse on your computer reduces your paper use by 50%. If your situation allows you to print double-sided, there's no reason not to.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
None	50% reduced need to purchase printer paper, potentially saving thousands of dollars each year	None available	Office

Resources and Suggestions

If employees are unsure of how to use duplex printing, you can send out an email or host a quick training session. Having a directive for duplexing works very well. You can also get employees excited about it by having competitions between offices or departments on paper use. You can also post signage at printers.

Case Summary

Implementing duplex printing makes good economic and environmental sense. The US Navy switched to double-sided printing in 2013, saving \$61 million up to 546,850 trees annually. They also learned that printing in color can cost up to 10x more than black and white only. Making this switch can save an additional \$171 million a year.

<http://www.doncio.navy.mil/ContentView.aspx?id=4501>

Conduct all Written Communications via Email	1 Point
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Email is a much faster and cheaper mode of communication.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
None, provided you already have computers at your business	Significant reduction in paper use Faster communications	None	All Office

Resources and Suggestions

The most visible impact of a move to a paperless office is the reduction in the cost of printing, mailing, shipping, and storing paper. Over time, lots of other benefits should become apparent: Less time spent looking for lost papers, etc. Both PC and Macintosh systems have email clients available to use. Microsoft Outlook is the most popular.

Example

A 100 letter mailer costs your business anywhere from \$60 – \$100 due to postage, paper, ink, time, and electrical costs. Doing the same mailer by mass email eliminates postage, paper, and ink costs, effectively reducing the costs by about \$50—\$75. In addition, you have much less paper in the waste stream that could potentially be sent to a landfill.

<http://www.cio.com/article/2377681/time-management-productivity/14-tips-for-creating-a-paperless-office.html>

Encourage Employees to Bring Lunch from Home at Least Once/wk.

1 Point

Bringing lunch from home saves your employees money from reduced driving/food expenses.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
None	Improved workplace atmosphere Your employees drive less Lunches can be waste free	None	Office Large

Resources and Suggestions

Host pot lucks or free lunches in the employee lunchroom once per week to encourage this activity.

Post signage to encourage the activity.

Institute a catered lunch service that employees may opt in to. Ensure that this service is almost waste-free.

Additional Suggestion

Occasionally, offer optional employee trainings during lunch hour and either provide a subsidized/free zero-waste lunch or encourage employees to bring their own zero-waste lunch. (Learn @ Lunch)

<http://transitioningtogether.com/learning-and-development/lunch-and-learn>**Encourage Employee Carpools and Provide Incentives**

1 Point

We understand that people have busy schedules and that carpooling is not always possible. But when it is possible, carpooling is a great way to save money and reduce transportation pollution.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
None—perhaps some small costs to provide incentives	Employees save money on driving Less cars parked in the parking lot Less fumes around your business	None	All

Resources and Suggestions

Reserve the best parking spaces for carpools.

Allow employees who carpool a 5 minute flexible start to their workday.

Provide a company car for carpools of 4+ employees, saving them money on gas.

Bonus Suggestions

Have a carpooling discussion at your next staff meeting or create a carpooling map so employees are aware of who they live close to and could consider carpooling with. Carpooling will also help enable employees to get to know each other more and create a more relaxed, more effective office environment. Employees will welcome this carpooling knowledge but may be intimidated about asking for it on their own.

<http://www.nrdc.org/enterprise/greeningadvisor/ta-carpools.asp>



PURCHASING

IN THIS SECTION: 11 POINTS



1. Only purchase paper products with at least 30% recycled content
2. Commit to purchasing only ENERGY STAR™ appliances
3. Take part in a rebate program from a Utility
4. Use electric or cloth-roll hand dryers in all bathrooms
5. Purchase an eco- friendly vehicle when replacing fleet vehicles

Only purchase Paper Products with at Least 30% Recycled Content			
Only purchase Paper Products with at Least 30% Recycled Content		1 Point (+1 for 100%)	
<i>Complete paper recycling full circle by purchasing paper products with at least 30% recycled content.</i>			
Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
Small increase in paper costs or no difference depending upon your vendor	Can advertise that your business completes recycling full-circle	None available	Office Large
Resources and Suggestions			
All that is required is a little attention to detail when purchasing your paper. If you commit to purchasing only 100% recycled content paper you will receive a bonus point for this action.			
The Savings Math			
The average office employee uses 10,000 sheets of copy paper a year. If just one employee switches to 100% recycled content paper, 1 ton of trees, 3 million BTU's of energy, 413 pounds of CO ₂ , 2,244 gallons of water, and 150 pounds of solid waste can be saved annually.			
http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/copy_paper/calculator/			

Commit to Purchasing only ENERGY STAR™ products	1 Points (+2 possible)
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Energy Star products generally use 20-30% less energy than their normal-efficiency counterparts. They will save you money.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
Varies depending upon appliance	Varies; Energy Star products can use 20-30% less electricity	Available from your utility for certain Energy Star products	Office Large Restaurants

Resources and Suggestions

Refrigerators, vending machines, televisions, and commercial food service equipment are especially products to consider purchasing Energy Star versions. Check out all of the products at www.energystar.gov.

Earn 2 Points for becoming an ENERGY STAR™ Partner and/or ENERGY STAR™ Certified Building or Plant. Visit <http://www.energystar.gov/buildings?s=mega> for more information.

Case Summary

Austin, MN Public Schools needed new food service equipment. By purchasing 3 refrigerators, 3 freezers, 2 electric steamers, and 3 hot food holding cabinets (all Energy Star compliant) they reduced their energy bills by \$3,560 annually and received \$4,675 in rebates from their local utility.

www.energystar.gov/ia/products/commercial_food_service/Austin_Public_School_CS.pdf

Take Part in a Rebate Program from your Utility	1 Point
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Utilities offer commercial rebates to businesses that take action to reduce their energy usage. That's right, your business gets paid to save on energy costs.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
Any costs to implement energy-saving upgrades not covered by the rebate	Rebates are available in small or large amounts for various upgrades	Available from your utility for various efficiency upgrades	All

Resources and Suggestions

Contact your utility and ask about all of the programs, services, and rebates available. You can also check online at www.elkriverutilities.com/pages/rebate-forms. Connexus customers: check out www.connexusenergy.com/business/rebates. CenterPoint customers, visit <http://www.centerpointenergy.com/portal/site/CenterPointEnergy/menuitem.2146d2f5f1168cbb62d341b1101ad0a0/?>

Case Summary

Jack Mowry, president of Metal Craft, received a rebate check for more than \$91,000 from Elk River Municipal Utilities for installing energy-efficient technologies in his company's brand new 78,000 square foot facility located off of Highway 10 in Elk River.

Other financial incentives: <http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/index.cfm?re=0&ee=0&srp=1&state=MN>

Use Electric or Cloth-roll Hand Dryers in all Bathrooms**2 points**

Energy-efficient electric hand dryers are by far the best “bang-for-your-buck” and offer the highest level of cleanliness. Cloth-roll dryers have the benefit of zero paper waste and zero energy use.

Costs

Electric dryers cost \$100 to \$1000 per unit, and \$1.34 per 1000 dryings

Payback/Benefits

Zero paper waste for hand drying. Reduced costs over time versus paper towels

Rebates

None available

Business

Any with bathrooms

Resources and Suggestions

It is estimated that a restroom with medium traffic can go through a roll of paper towels a day, costing \$75/month. The same restroom would spend about \$14.58/month on electric costs with a hand dryer, saving \$60/month.

Case Summary

In 2008, the State of MN installed energy efficient dryers in four bathrooms in state buildings and found an 80% energy savings versus the old models. They also estimated that ongoing costs versus traditional paper towels were 90% reduced with energy efficient electric dryers.

http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/sessionweekly/art.asp?ls_year=86&issueid=&storyid=745&year=2009

Purchase an Eco-friendly Vehicle when Replacing Fleet Vehicles**3 Points**

You pay for much more than the vehicle when purchasing a fleet vehicle. With gasoline costs on the rise and destined to rise much higher, it is wise to purchase a vehicle with high fuel efficiency.

Costs

The vehicle must be rated at least 35mpg combined by the EPA or use alternative fuels

Payback/Benefits

Reduced fuel costs
Reduced vehicle emissions
Marketing tool

Tax Credits

Tax credits are available for hybrid and plug-in vehicles at \$2,500 to \$7,500 dollars per vehicle

Business

Large
Any with fleet vehicles

Resources and Suggestions

Efficient fleet vehicles tell others that your company is serious about efficiency and American energy security.

Go to www.fueleconomy.gov to find a bounty of information about the cars available that meet efficiency standards.

Case Summary

The town of Apex, North Carolina purchased a Chevrolet Volt and three Nissan Leafs in 2014. They are estimated to save a total of \$16,000 per car over the next seven years, when compared to their previous fleet.

<http://business.edf.org/projects/featured/past-projects/five-step-green-fleet-framework/>



MISCELLANEOUS

IN THIS SECTION: 15 POINTS



1. Offer bicycle parking
2. Require the use of green cleaning products/ limit their use
3. Plant a rain garden
4. Have preferred parking space(s) for hybrid/electric vehicles
5. Attend an Energy City event
6. Apply for the MnTAP Intern Program or Receive an MnTAP site visit
7. Any other approved action

Offer Bicycle Parking			
Offer Bicycle Parking			2 Points
<i>Bicycle racks give your employees and patrons the option of biking to your business. This makes your business much more accessible and encourages others to drive less. It also shows that your business cares about health and wellness.</i>			
Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
\$100 to \$500 depending upon number of bike parking slots	Makes your building more accessible and user friendly	None available	Any with space or pedestrian access
Resources and Suggestions			
Bicycle racks are available in all manner of shapes and sizes to suit the needs of your building and exterior space. Check out all of the available models at online stores such as bikeracksource.com and bicycleparkingracks.com . Purchase a unique design to add an attractive art-piece to your lot.			
Additional Information			
With gas prices increasing, more people are looking for ways to walk or bike. By providing bike racks, your employees and customers will be more likely to consider biking next time they come because the proximity of the bike racks make it easy to commute.			
http://www.reliance-foundry.com/blog/business-bike-parking-tips			

Require the use of Green Cleaning Products/Limit Chemical use	2 Points
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You will find that you do not need 30+ chemicals to clean your building. Green cleaning products are often cheaper and healthier for employees and patrons.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
Low to none	Healthier work environment Reduced costs for chemicals	None	Any who use cleaning products

Resources and Suggestions

Green cleaning products are widely available and work the same as normal cleaning products.

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (www.mntap.umn.edu/) offers audits of your cleaning products/ services as part of a site visits and pinpoints the cleaners that can be replaced or eliminated.

Additional Suggestion

At Gustavus College, a chemical inventory was conducted including dining services, housekeeping, laundry, and the heating and cooling plant. Housekeeping has made a complete switch to non-phosphorus containing chemicals resulting in a phosphorus reduction of 220 pounds per year. This will save the wastewater treatment plant \$2,900 annually through a reduction in chemicals required to remove the phosphorus to meet permit limits.

<http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/cleaning.htm>

Plant a Rain Garden	2 Points
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Rain gardens effectively reduce the space that you need to water. They also capture stormwater runoff and prevent it from running into lakes, rivers, and streams.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
Medium upfront costs for planting and seeding	Reduces your watering area Collects stormwater runoff Requires limited maintenance	None available	Any with green space

Resources and Suggestions

The Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District can advise you on what are the best types of plants to use for your rain garden. They can also help you with designing and selecting a location. Their services are free. If you don't have a green space, consider sponsoring a rain garden elsewhere.

Case Summary

Great River Energy planted numerous rain gardens at it's LEED-Platinum headquarters in Maple Grove. These rain gardens help reduce their irrigation usage by 66% when compared to other similarly sized buildings and landscapes. Plants native to Minnesota and the region, including prairie grasses and fruit trees that need little irrigation, surround the building. When irrigation is needed, captured rainwater is used, not drinking water.

www.sherburneswcd.org

www.bluthumb.org/why/

Have Preferred Parking Spaces for Hybrid/Electric Vehicles	2 Points
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Hybrid/Electric vehicles are the undisputed future of automotive transportation. As fossil fuels run out, fuel efficiency must increase and more people will buy these vehicles.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
Costs to put up a sign or paint the parking spot	Shows that you care about U.S. energy security Encourage new customers	None available	Any with parking lot

Resources and Suggestions

With gas prices on the rise, you can choose to reward those consumers who have purchased energy efficient vehicles. This shows that your business is modern and recognizes future trends.

Additional Suggestion

Take it a step further and provide Electric Vehicle recharge stations. A level 3 charging station can charge an EV 80% in just 30 minutes. Bring in customers to your business by providing a station in your parking lot.

Learn more about the types of chargers here: www.evtown.org/about-ev-town/ev-charging/charging-levels.html

See where the charging stations are currently: <http://www.plugshare.com/?location=55330>

Attend an Energy City Event	2 Points
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Elk River Energy City offers various events throughout the year tailored to local businesses. These events focus on how businesses can save money and become stewards of the environment through efficiency.

Costs	Payback/Benefits	Rebates	Business
None	Network with other businesses Learn about free services Gain insights on saving money	None available	All

Resources and Suggestions

The City of Elk River has an Energy City Education series geared specifically to area businesses covering topics ranging from waste stream reduction, recycling, green building practices, and energy efficiency financing. We also will put you in touch with free services that will analyze your business practices and root out inefficiencies. You may also sign up for a free tour of Energy City demonstration sites.

Contact Info

Call the City of Elk River Environmental Department at 763-635-1000 or email EnergyCity@ElkRiverMN.gov to learn more about future events and opportunities.

www.ElkRiverMN.gov/EnergyCity.com

Apply for the MnTAP Intern Program or Receive an MnTAP site visit**2 Points**

Each summer, the MnTAP intern program places highly qualified students in manufacturing or healthcare facilities to develop solutions for waste and energy problems. MnTAP site visits resulted in \$1.2 Million in savings in 2013.

Costs

Cost share up to a \$2,500 to host the intern for a summer, site visits are free

Payback/Benefits

2010 interns identified over \$1.7 million in projected savings, an average of \$217,000 per company

Rebates

None available

Business

Industrial

Resources and Suggestions

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) is an outreach program at the University of Minnesota that helps Minnesota businesses develop and implement industry-tailored solutions that prevent pollution at the source, maximize efficient use of resources, and reduce energy use and costs to improve public health and the environment. MnTAP also offers free site visits.

Case Summary

In 2010, an MnTAP intern recommended measures at Malt-O-Meal Plant in Northfield that would save a projected \$449,720 per year via reducing water, natural gas, and electricity use. Savings would be mostly realized by reusing over 22.5 million gallons of boiler water and treating their water more efficiently.

[http://www.mntap.umn.edu/intern/presentations/2010Presentations/Malt O Meal.pdf](http://www.mntap.umn.edu/intern/presentations/2010Presentations/Malt_O_Meal.pdf)

Any Other Approved Action**1-3 Points**

There are many innovative ways that businesses can boost efficiency and become more environmentally friendly. We haven't thought of them all...

Costs

Various

Payback/Benefits

Various

Rebates

Check with your local utility

Business

All

Resources and Suggestions

You know your own business better than anyone. If you see potential for an increase in efficiency that will have a positive impact on the environment, let us know.

Case Summary

None available.

Checklist

Write your points in the box to keep track

Waste Management

- Institute a business recycling program
- Provide deskside recycling containers
- Remove disposables from employee lunch areas
- Recycle an item on the MN Materials Exchange
- Receive a waste audit
- Institute an organics recycling program
- Work with janitors to ensure that materials are recycled

Electricity Conservation and Lighting

- Completely switch to energy efficient lighting
- Shut off all electronic equipment at the end of the day
- Install vending misers on all refrigerated vending machines
- Receive an energy audit from a certified professional
- Install occupancy sensors for lighting
- Facility system optimization
- Install a renewable energy

Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling Systems

- Reduce thermostat level
- Install & program a programmable or smart thermostat
- Upgrade your building's HVAC system(s)
- Upgrade to premium efficiency motors
- Install a heat pump system to heat or cool

Water Conservation

- Optimize and reduce watering schedules
- Post signage in business encouraging water conservation
- Install water efficient aerators on all faucets
- Improve kitchen dishwasher efficiency
- If you have green space, use natural landscape techniques

Employee Initiatives

- Mandate the recycling of paper, plastic, metal, and glass
- Mandate duplex printing
- Conduct all written communications via email
- Encourage employees to bring lunch from home at least 1x/wk
- Encourage employee carpools and provide incentives

Purchasing

- Only purchase paper with at least 30% recycled content
- Commit to purchasing ENERGY STAR™ appliances
- Take part in a rebate program from a Utility
- Use electric or cloth-roll hand dryers in all bathrooms
- Purchase an eco-friendly vehicle when replacing fleet vehicles

Miscellaneous

- Offer bicycle parking
- Require the use of green cleaning products/ limit their use
- Plant a rain garden
- Have preferred parking space(s) for hybrid/electric vehicles
- Attend an Energy City event
- Apply for a MnTap Intern or receive an MnTap site visit
- Any other approved action

Upon completion of an action, report it via email to EngeryCity@ElkRiverMN.gov, use the online form, or call the City of Elk River Environmental Department at 763.635.1000. Be prepared to provide information about the how the action was achieved and any associated successes. Your points and High Five level will be tracked in a confidential database. Plaques and stickers are granted when you reach a new level of High Five.



Resources

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP): A program based out of the University of Minnesota, MnTAP helps businesses develop and implement industry-tailored solutions that prevent pollution at the source, maximize efficient use of resources, and reduce energy use and costs to improve public health and the environment. 612.624.1300 www.mntap.umn.edu

Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM): RAM promotes resource conservation through waste prevention, reuse, recycling, composting, and purchasing practices using the most cost effective and environmentally sound methods available in Minnesota and offer recycling opportunities, education, and free signs 651.641.4589 www.recycleminnesota.org

Minnesota Retired Environmental Technical Assistance Program (RETAP): Minnesota RETAP provides free, confidential, non-regulatory pollution prevention, waste reduction, and energy use reduction assistance, and other services to Minnesota businesses, industries, and institutions. Assessments include analysis of utility bills, site visit, and a written report with high priority changes and estimated financial and environmental savings. 612.781.1307 www.pca.state.mn.us/dm0r6c0

Minnesota WasteWise: WasteWise is a membership nonprofit organization associated with the MN Chamber of Commerce. For a fee, they will get to intimately know your business and your needs and will work with you year-round to lighten your business' environmental impact and save you money. 651.292.4650 www.mnwastewise.org

Minnesota Materials Exchange: The Minnesota Materials Exchange program is a free service that links organizations that have reusable goods they no longer need to those who can use them. By providing a business reuse network, the Exchange program prevents usable materials from becoming waste and saves users money. Users can list any unwanted items on the online exchange and post pictures, information, and the price. 612.624.0808 www.mnexchange.org

ENERGY STAR™: A program of the Environmental Protection Agency, EnergyStar certifies products that use less energy than their counterparts. These products can save your business money in the long run. www.energystar.gov

The City of Elk River: The purpose of city staff is to serve your needs. City environmental specialists are ready to work with your business to increase efficiency and lower costs. In addition, the Economic Development Department is ready to assist your business, offering a low interest loan to fund energy efficiency upgrades that you can pay back with your energy cost savings. 763.635.1000 www.elkrivernm.gov

The Minnesota Department of Commerce: The major purpose of the Minnesota Department of Commerce is to ensure that business flourishes in the state of Minnesota. Check out their guide at www.mn.gov/commerce

Sherburne County Soil & Water Conservation District: Specializing in water conservation and the preservation of our native soils, the SWCD is ready to answer any questions you have regarding your green space and reducing your water use. 763.241.1170 (Ext. 4) www.sherburneswcd.org

Other Resources: Your garbage hauler or utility may have conservation programs or rebates to offer you. If you are curious whether a rebate is available for one of the actions in this packet, call them and ask.

Connexus Energy: 763.323.2650

Elk River Municipal Utilities: 763.441.2020

CenterPoint Energy: 612.321.4939

Randy's Sanitation: 763.972.3335

Allied Waste: 952.941.5174



This program is meant to be a partnership between the City of Elk River and businesses. Thus, we want your feedback! If you find any problems with the information presented in this packet, please contact the City of Elk River Environmental Department at 763.635.1000. Please feel free to contact us with any comments, questions, ideas, or stories as well. Thank you!

As a part of this program, participants agree to the possibility of a walkthrough assessment in order to determine compliance with the program. This ensures the opportunity to receive incentives as a part of this program.

Disclaimer: This resource is for educational purposes. The City of Elk River does not endorse any product, business, organization, or service.

