

Lighting for Small Businesses

- Lighting is one the largest energy costs for general retail and office businesses. Energy efficient lighting upgrades can easily pay for themselves in a couple of years, and sometimes in a matter of months. Lighting upgrades improve the appearance of the building and make for a better work environment. Lighting is also one of the easiest improvements to make, even in older buildings.
- The first step to improving lighting is to identify which areas of the building need more light and which can survive on less light. For example a business focused on reading, such as a bookstore, should have good lighting. A storage area doesn't need as much lighting. In areas that are infrequently used you can install occupancy sensors to control lighting.



- Sun light is free energy. Either turn off lights manually or install a timer to take advantage of bright times during the day.



- Replace regular incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Compact fluorescents are at least four times as efficient as regular bulbs and last ten times as long. They don't require any changes to lighting fixtures. This reduces your energy and maintenance costs. Energy efficient light bulbs are marked with the ENERGY STAR logo and are available at hardware stores everywhere.



- Purchase ENERGY STAR LED lighting kits next time your bulb burns out. Regular incandescent bulbs burn out in only about one year, but LED's last for many years. Installing LEDs can lower operating costs per sign from about \$30 per year to about \$5 per year.