

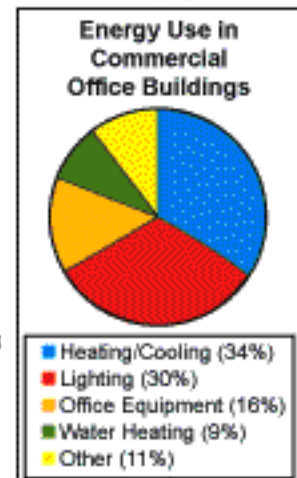
# HVAC News

*Spring Edition 2007*

## Shining the Light on Energy Consumption

OK, we admit it, heating and cooling equipment uses a lot of energy. But HVAC isn't the ONLY energy hog in the workplace. According to the U.S. Dept. of Energy, after HVAC, lighting and office equipment are the biggest energy consumers. If you've seen our website, or read our past newsletters, you already know several ways you can reduce your HVAC energy consumption. Here are some ways to tackle the other energy hogs - lighting and office equipment:

- **Upgrade your old fluorescent lighting** - Replacing T12 fluorescents with modern T8 lamps and ballasts can reduce consumption by 35%. Adding reflectors, new lenses and occupancy sensors or timers can double the savings.
- **Better Design for Parking Lot Lighting** - A well-lit parking lot makes us all feel secure. But too much lighting can actually create a potentially dangerous driving condition. Driver's eyes may not adapt quickly enough from extremely bright areas to darker areas causing temporary blindness. Low-wattage metal halide lamps, aimed downward, can be a more effective and less costly solution than the high-pressure sodium lamps.
- **Put Your Office Equipment to Bed** - Setting your computer up to automatically switch to the power-saving sleep mode after a designated period of inactivity is a quick and easy energy-saver. Remembering to shut down all copiers, printers, shredders, etc. at night and on weekends is not only a big energy-saver, but can also prolong the life of your equipment. (TIP: If you don't like to wait for the computer to reboot every morning, just shutting off the monitor at night and on weekends, can save more than \$30/monitor annually.) For new office equipment purchases, look for the Energy Star® label to maximize energy-efficiency of equipment.



For more energy-saving tips for the office or the home, visit the U.S. Dept. of Energy website [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov) or the local electric utility, NSTAR's website at [www.nstaronline.com](http://www.nstaronline.com).

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov) and NSTAR Electric [www.nstaronline.com](http://www.nstaronline.com)

## Don't Let High Fuel Costs Drive You Nuts

Whether you drive an economy car, an SUV or run a fleet of trucks, like us, there are plenty of ways to improve your gas mileage. Avoid aggressive driving and observe the speed limit. Speeding, fast acceleration, and hard braking wastes gas. Lighten your load by clearing your vehicle of extra weight, and remove roof racks or carriers if not used frequently.

It is important to keep current with vehicle maintenance — clean air filters can improve gas mileage by as much as 10%. Properly inflated and aligned tires will improve gas mileage by 3%. Using the wrong grade of oil can reduce mileage by 1% to 2%.



For longer-term savings, consider a high mileage-per-gallon vehicle for your next purchase. For more information on buying a fuel-efficient car or truck, visit <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/>.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov)