



Consumers Energy Solution Center

What Can \$1 Worth of Energy Do for Your Business?

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You know that electricity is critical to your business operations and you pay your bill every month. But what exactly are you paying for? It turns out, quite a lot. Here are some examples of how just a single dollar's worth of energy can power your bottom line.

Want to stretch your energy dollar even further? Check out these easy [energy saving tips](#).

Power a laptop computer for 18 days.



Laptop computers are the workhorse of the modern day office. For a single dollar you get 18 days of productivity? Now that's a bargain! Strike an even better bargain by upgrading to [ENERGY STAR®](#) qualified models. ENERGY STAR computers deliver substantial energy savings compared to standard units. Avoid wasted energy by enabling power management 'sleep' settings on all computers and office equipment.

Print 47,250 sheets of paper.



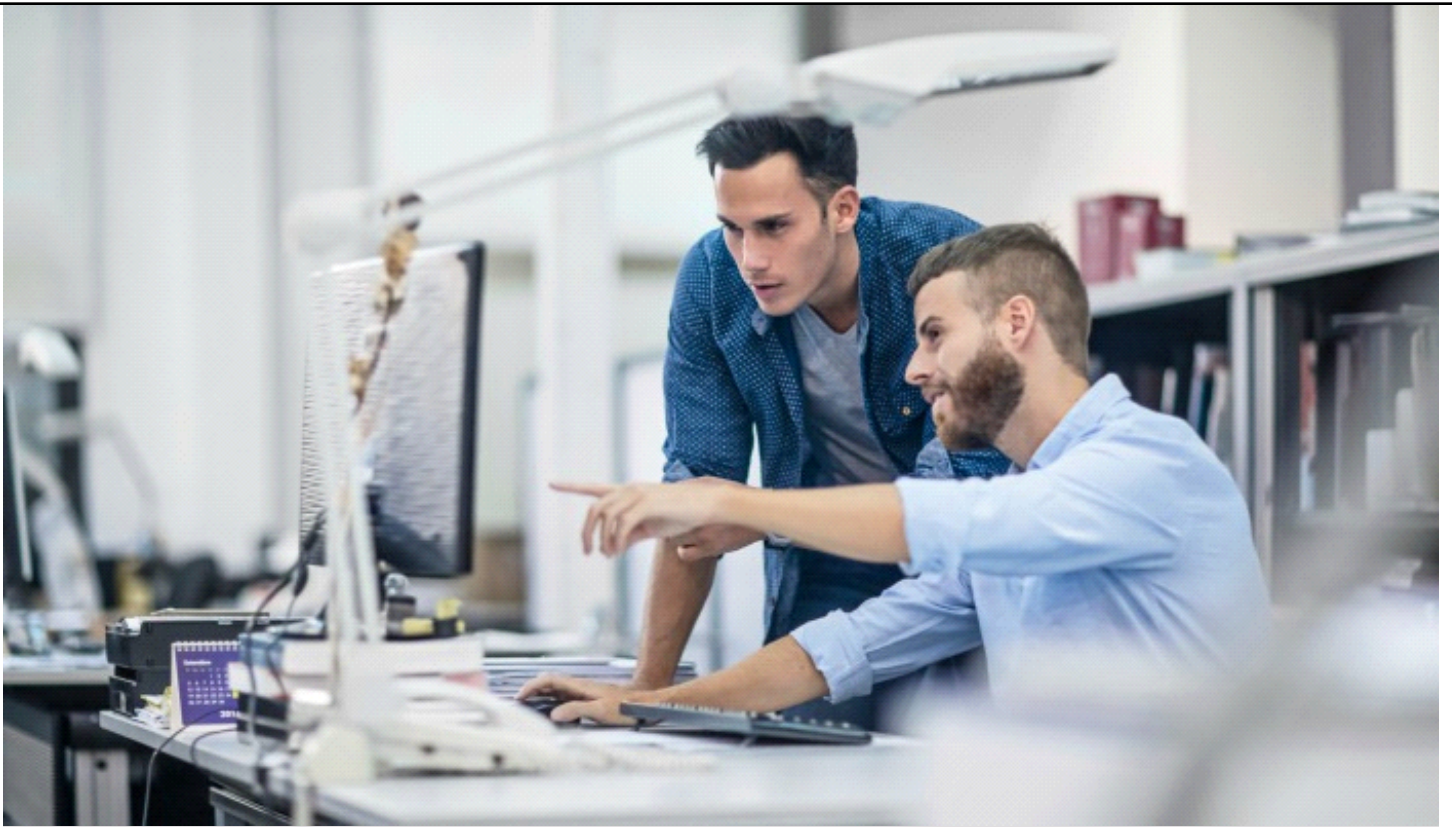
That's a lot of printing for just \$1 dollar worth of electricity. It's important to conserve paper, however, so print only what you need. If you're careful, that dollar will last you a long time. If you have printers scattered around your facility, network them together into one or a few [ENERGY STAR](#) qualified models. You'll save energy and paper.

Make 432 cups of coffee.



All that coffee helps keep your staff going. However, personal appliances—such as coffee makers, fans and space heaters—can really put the heat on your energy budget. Save energy by keeping your building at a comfortable temperature and making appliances available in a central break room.

Light a typical office for 20 working days.



Good lighting is critical for a safe, productive and inviting indoor environment. By upgrading to high efficiency LEDs, you'll save energy and improve the light quality in your building. Even the most efficient fixtures, however, will waste energy lighting empty spaces. Install controls, such as timers and occupancy sensors, to ensure that lights are switched off when they're no longer needed.

Run a cash register for 16 days.



Business owners love to hear the cash register sing, but energy efficiency may just be a better way to turn a profit. How? Increasing sales comes with added expenses, such as hiring extra staff and purchasing new equipment. In retail for example, the average net profit margin is 5 percent, meaning that for every dollar in sales, you'll get 5 cents in profit. By contrast, for every dollar saved on energy costs, you get to keep a dollar.

Operate a cold drink vending machine for 34 hours.



Cold drink vending machines operate 24/7, so the cost can really add up. Simple upgrades can provide some cool savings. Install occupancy sensors to shut off the compressor and front-panel lights when no one's around. Replace fluorescent lights in the front panel with high-efficiency LED lights.

It's clear that energy efficiency is a valuable resource for your business. Increase that value by hiring a qualified professional to perform an [energy audit](#) of your business. Your auditor will examine your facility and recommend the most effective ways to stretch your energy dollars even further.

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