

# Is Your Small Business Ready for Winter?

## *Top 5 Ways to Keep Warm and Save Money with ENERGY STAR®*

This winter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can help you keep your facility warm and comfortable while saving energy and protecting the environment. By reducing the amount of energy used in your building, you can save money on energy bills and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions generated by burning fossil fuels that contribute to global warming.

In most parts of the U.S., the cold temperatures of the winter season demand more energy to warm the buildings where we live, work, shop, and play. That can be a strain on finances as well as a strain on the environment. These simple tips offered by the EPA's ENERGY STAR program, will set you on a path to savings while reducing the risks to our environment.

### **5. Check caulking around windows and doorframes for leaks and fill them in if necessary.**

Inspect seals around doors and windows and add new weather stripping as necessary—if you can slide a dollar bill easily through the gap, you are losing heat, energy and money. ENERGY STAR's guidance on sealing and insulating homes also applies to most small businesses. Consider adding insulation and/or increasing [R-value to the recommended levels](#). For information, visit ENERGY STAR'S online [home sealing section](#).

### **4. “Tune-up” your heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) system with an annual maintenance contract.**

Even a new [ENERGY STAR qualified HVAC system](#), like a new car, will decline in performance without regular maintenance. A contract automatically ensures that your HVAC contractor will provide pre-season tune-ups before each cooling and heating season. You save energy and money, and your system may last years longer with reasonably priced yearly maintenance fees. Your chances of an emergency HVAC break-down also become very remote with regular maintenance. Change (or clean if reusable) HVAC filters every month during peak cooling or heating season.

### **3. Install ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostats for your HVAC system.**

Install an [ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat](#) to automate your HVAC system and save energy while your small business is closed or unoccupied. This solid-state, electronic device automatically adjusts temperature settings based on your schedule, and can be overridden for unscheduled events. This “smart thermostat” can turn on the HVAC one hour before arrival and keep it off or at a lower, more energy-efficient temperature on weekends instead of heating unoccupied space.

### **2. Always buy ENERGY STAR qualified equipment for your facility.**

[ENERGY STAR qualified products](#) are a good business investment. Products that display the ENERGY STAR label operate more efficiently, save energy, and help protect the environment. Next time you purchase a computer, printer, copier, refrigerator, television, HVAC system, or other appliance for your small business – look for the ENERGY STAR.

### **1. Make sure your water heater and pipes are insulated.**

[Insulation](#) will prevent energy loss and may even allow you to turn the temperature down and still maintain comfortable water temperatures at points of use, such as faucets and showers. If your water heater is an older, uninsulated unit, consider adding a water heater blanket to prevent heat loss from the tank, and add foam-tube insulation on the first three feet of the hot water pipe out of the heater. Set the water temperature on your water heater only as hot as needed (110°-120° F) to prevent dangerous burns and save energy.

To learn more about how small businesses can protect the environment by reducing energy costs, please visit [www.energystar.gov/smallbiz](http://www.energystar.gov/smallbiz).