



ENERGY
SAVING

TOP TEN RESOURCES

For more info, go to www.BGESmartEnergy.com/Business or www.BaltimoreEnergyChallenge.org

You can call us at 443.869.2614 or email us at BBEC@BaltimoreEnergyChallenge.org

FOR SMALL
BUSINESSES

- 1**  **BGE Small Business Energy Solutions** Get an on-site energy analysis of your business's lighting and BGE may cover up to 80% of the costs of a retrofit! More at www.BGESmartEnergy.com/Business.
- 2**  **BGE Commercial Energy Calculator** Use BGE's online commercial energy calculator to see how much you're spending on current energy consumption! Go to BGE.apogee.net/comsuite.
- 3**  **MEA Commercial Clean Energy Grant Program** The Maryland Energy Administration can provide businesses with financial assistance for installing clean energy - solar panels, solar water heating, geothermal heating and cooling, and wind turbine systems. Go to Energy.Maryland.gov/Business/CleanEnergyGrants.
- 4**  **Sales Tax Exemptions for Solar and Geothermal Equipment** Businesses in Maryland can purchase energy-efficient equipment tax free. Eligible equipment includes solar water and space heating, solar panels and geothermal heat pumps.
- 5**  **ENERGYSTAR for Small Business** ENERGY STAR is a U.S. Government program promoting energy-efficient products and practices. Take advantage of resources specific to small businesses! Go to EnergyStar.gov for more details.
- 6**  **BGE Smart Energy: HVAC** BGE provides financial incentives for a tune-up or replacement of your HVAC system, including adding a Variable Frequency Drive to your existing system. Call **410-290-1202**.
- 7**  **BGE Smart Energy: Commercial Kitchen Equipment** Significantly reduce your business's kitchen costs by upgrading or purchasing energy-efficient food prep equipment, refrigerators, freezers, and ice machines. Call **410-290-1202**.
- 8**  **BGE Smart Energy: Enhanced Operations and Maintenance** Business facilities that are less than 75,000 square feet and has industrial process systems may be eligible for O&M services to improve the operating efficiency of your building.
- 9**  **Public Service Commission (PSC): Energy Service Providers** Visit the PSC website, psc.state.md.us, to compare service providers and their natural gas and electricity rates. You may save money by choosing one that fits the needs of your business.
- 10**  **Small Business Administration** Use the Small Business Administration to find possible financial assistance for your energy efficiency needs! Contact them at **877-421-0830** for more information.

ENERGY
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BALTIMORE BUSINESS
ENERGY CHALLENGE

TOP TEN ACTIONS

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FOR SMALL
BUSINESSES

- 1**  **Install an Energy-Efficient Lighting System.** Installing fluorescent lights, linear LEDs and occupancy sensors will greatly reduce your lighting costs. Turning the lights off at closing time will save you even more! Contact BGE's Small Business Energy Solutions program to see if your business qualifies for up to an 80% rebate on a lighting retrofit, www.BGESmartEnergy.com/Business.
- 2**  **Maintain your HVAC System.** Many businesses spend up to 50% of their energy costs on heating and cooling. Having this system serviced regularly is important for keeping it efficient. Simple tasks, such as changing the HVAC filter, can make a big difference.
- 3**  **Use Your Thermostat Wisely and/or Install a Programmable Thermostat.** Set the thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer. Install a programmable thermostat that will automatically change the temperature settings when your business is closed, so that heating and cooling isn't being wasted during off-hours.
- 4**  **Get a Cool Roof!** Businesses with a flat roof can lower summer energy bills by having a cool (white roof) applied over your existing roof.
- 5**  **Replace Older Appliances and Equipment.** Older equipment costs your business more in energy costs and gives off more heat than newer models. Replacing equipment with ENERGY STAR models will pay for itself with savings over time.
- 6**  **Unplug Devices and/or Turn Off Powerstrips!** Many devices in your building use power even when turned off. Fix this problem by unplugging things at the close of business or plugging them into powerstrips that you can turn off when you close up shop!
- 7**  **Conserve Your Water Usage.** Install faucet aerators in the bathroom and kitchen so they use water more efficiently while providing the same pressure. You can also improve the efficiency of the toilet by installing a toilet tank bank or a newer, more efficient model.
- 8**  **Improve Water Heating Efficiency.** Turn the temperature on your hot water to 120 degrees, the recommended temperature. Wrapping your water heater and insulating pipes will improve the unit's efficiency. Consider installing a tankless water heater to save even more!
- 9**  **Air-Seal Your Building.** Air sealing around the walls, doors, and windows is easy to do yourself. Inexpensive items you can use include caulk, weather stripping, window plastic, interior storm window kits, and door snakes.
- 10**  **Talk to Staff, Other Businesses, and Customers about Energy Efficiency!** Educate employees and staff about energy efficient steps your business is taking and encourage full participation. Help spread the word and tell other businesses what they can do to conserve, and share with clients and customers ways that they can save too!