

Best Practices: Energy Savings

Efficient energy use reduces Colorado State's total energy demand, decreases harmful emissions, and minimizes the cost of providing energy to the campus. As a result of energy conservation initiatives that have been implemented over the past 20 years, growth in the average demand per square foot on campus has flattened out.

Students making a difference

- In 2004, Colorado State became one of the first universities in the nation to offer on-campus residents the option to purchase green power. More than 900 students have signed up for this option.

Small, physical changes

- The University retrofitted refrigerated vending machines containing non-perishable food items with energy saving controllers in 2006. These vending machines ran constantly to keep refrigerated drinks cold, costing Colorado State at least \$24,000/yr. The controllers, called *vending misers*, use an infrared occupancy sensor to turn off the fluorescent lights and compressor when the surrounding area is unoccupied for fifteen minutes or longer, saving the University over \$4,300/yr and decreasing CO₂ emissions by more than 115 tons/yr. More than half of the cost of this project was covered by rebates provided by the City of Fort Collins.
- Colorado State replaced all of the lights at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital with more efficient fluorescent lamps and ballasts. The project was partially funded by the Platte River Power Authority and the City of Fort Collins, and is anticipated to save the University over \$22,000/yr.
- Colorado State changed indoor and outdoor lights at South College Gym to more energy efficient bulbs, which saves about \$4,500/yr. The Platte River Power Authority and the City of Fort Collins helped to fund this project by providing the University with rebates to cover over one-third of the cost.

Working with facilities staff

- Staff from Facilities Management worked together with occupants of Yates Hall to optimize ventilation for safety and energy efficiency. The result was a 26% decrease in the electric use of the building.

Preparing for the future

- On future remodeling and construction projects, consider saving money by adding conservation and energy-saving elements such as efficient lighting. While the initial investment may cost a little more up front, it'll save you money in the long term.