GREEN BUSINESS TIPS & BEST PRACTICES

Strengthening Our Community, Protecting the Environment, Saving Money

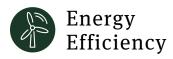
What's good for the planet can also be good for your bottom line. We've prepared practical, cost-saving tips that reduce environmental impact in energy, water, recycling and transportation.

By adopting these practices, your business can:

- Cut expenses
- · Build a strong reputation
- Contribute to a healthier Lowcountry environment.



- Start with cardboard if you're new to recycling and grow upon your success.
- Make sorting easy by placing clearly labeled bins for paper, plastics, and metals.
- Share the "why" and "how" of recycling to encourage participation.
- **Encourage reuse.** Try reusable water bottles, cutlery, cups, and bags instead of single-use plastic items.
- Understand the hidden cost of landfilling vs. recycling.
- Seek <u>free waste audits</u> to identify cost-saving opportunities.
- Learn about accepted materials at <u>Beaufort</u> <u>County Solid Waste & Recycling.</u>
- Find more resources from South Carolina's <u>Smart Business Recycling Program.</u>

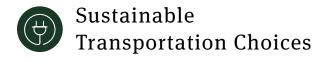


- Switch to LED lighting wherever possible.
 LEDs use up to 90% less energy and last up to
 25 times longer than traditional incandescent
 bulbs.
- Keep up with regular HVAC maintenance to save up to 15% on annual energy bills.
- Inspect and maintain water heater equipment to help it run more efficiently.
- Install **smart thermostats** to reduce heating and cooling expenses.
- Try an <u>Energy Star Treasure Hunt</u> to find quick ways to save energy.
- Explore Palmetto Electric Cooperative's <u>Commercial Energy Savings Guide.</u>



- Enroll in your water utility's **online portal** for easy water monitoring and **free leak alerts**.
- Fix leaks promptly even a tiny hole can waste thousands of gallons. You could save up to \$1,500 a year on your water bill by stopping water waste.
- Follow local irrigation rules for weekly watering limits and always with a rain sensor.
- Invest in water-saving toilets and replace toilet flappers periodically.
- Check out the <u>EPA's WaterSense Guide</u> for additional resources.
- Visit <u>Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority</u>, <u>Broad Creek Public Service District</u>, <u>Hilton Head Public Service District</u>, <u>or South Island Public Service District</u>.





- Coordinate carpools, vanpools or use ridesharing to reduce fuel costs and single occupancy vehicle emissions.
- **Subsidize bus passes** to save commuting costs and ease congestion.
- Encourage employees to commute by bike/e-bike using 64 miles of <u>public pathways</u> and provide bike storage facilities.
- Support flexible work arrangements like remote or staggered schedules to reduce stress and fuel use.
- Replace short trips with virtual meetings when possible.
- Provide preferred parking (at least 5%) for Green
 Vehicles and Carpools of the total parking spaces.



Chamber Spotlight: Green Business Best Practices

- Every quarter we highlight a local business and their focus on the environment. <u>Click here</u> to learn more about our current business spotlight.
- To learn more about how to apply these tips & best practices to your business, please <u>call</u> or <u>email</u> our office and we will get you connected with the Hilton Head Island & Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Environmental Affairs Committee.

