

# 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.

## Business Recycling

- **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 free waste audits to identify cost-saving opportunities.
- Learn about **accepted materials** at Beaufort County Solid Waste & Recycling.
- Find more resources from South Carolina's Smart Business Recycling Program.



## Energy Efficiency

- 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 Energy Star Treasure Hunt to find quick ways to save energy.
- Explore Palmetto Electric Cooperative's Commercial Energy Savings Guide.



## Water Efficiency

- 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 EPA's WaterSense Guide for additional resources.
- Visit Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, Broad Creek Public Service District, Hilton Head Public Service District, or South Island Public Service District.





## Sustainable Transportation Choices

- 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 public pathways 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. [Click here](#) to learn more about our current business spotlight.
- To learn more about how to apply these tips & best practices to your business, please [call](#) or [email](#) our office and we will get you connected with the Hilton Head Island & Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Environmental Affairs Committee.

