Energy Efficiency Grants Available for Small Businesses Impacted by COVID-19

To help Santa Clara small businesses who have been impacted by COVID-19, Silicon Valley Power is offering grants to provide funding for energy efficiency upgrades. These upgrades will help lower business operating costs by reducing electric consumption. Energy efficiency projects may also have other non-energy benefits, such as reduced maintenance costs, better quality lighting and better equipment performance.

Energy efficiency projects that save electric energy may be eligible. Typical projects include lighting, HVAC, HVAC controls, and food service equipment upgrades. Up to $10,000 is available for eligible businesses. Projects will be funded at 100% for businesses that have been deemed as non-essential under the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department order dated March 16, 2020. For businesses that have been deemed essential, 10% of the project cost must be paid for by the business.

The program aims to provide up to $1 million in grants to eligible customers. Application preapproval is on a first come, first served basis. Silicon Valley Power’s energy engineers are available to assist businesses in identifying energy efficiency upgrades and reviewing bids from contractors. For complete program details, including eligibility requirements and the application process, please visit siliconvalleypower.com/businessrebates.

Take Control With Lighting Technologies

Is your lighting system as efficient as it could be? There may be a variety of energy-saving upgrades to choose from in your facility, but lighting is the low-hanging fruit. It’s important to look beyond just switching out lamps, however. Today, there are a number of lighting technologies and strategies that can help you optimize savings and enhance the visual appeal of your facility.

LED lighting

LEDs are the hottest technology in energy-efficient lighting, and for good reason. They provide a number of exciting benefits:

- **Long operating life.** LEDs typically have a rated life of 50,000 hours or more.
- **Durability.** Made from solid-state materials, LEDs are resistant to vibration and breakage.
Going wireless

Economy (ACEEE) found that combining controls saved energy and maintenance costs, and a more visually appealing and productive facility. LED lighting is not just efficient, but also offers several benefits:

- **Excellent light quality.** LEDs provide good color rendering, as well as a directional light focus.
- **Dimmability.** LEDs are easy to dim with the proper controls.
- **Instant on.** Unlike fluorescent or HID lamps, LEDs come to full brightness instantly.
- **Color tuning.** On some LEDs, the color temperature or tone can be instantly changed from warm to cool and back.

Layering multiple control strategies optimizes savings. A control controller. Networking offers functions such as remote sensing, tracking and reporting.

Looking good

High-efficiency, high-quality LED lighting and the latest in smart controls. Put it all together and you’ve got lower energy and maintenance costs, and a more visually appealing and productive facility.

**Energy Efficiency and Conservation Checklist for Vacant or Reduced Occupancy Buildings**

If your facility is closed or lightly occupied due to the current health pandemic, we can help you conserve energy to minimize your energy costs.

**HVAC**

1. Set HVAC fans to “auto” or “off”.
2. Re-program thermostats to match occupancy.
   a. Program thermostats to raise the temperature at night or when the building is unoccupied. Use settings 4-8 degrees higher during the cooling season and 8-12 degrees lower during the heating season.
   b. Spaces require ventilation to prohibit the buildup of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and moisture. Program thermostats in unoccupied buildings to operate a few hours per day to clear VOC and moisture.
3. Install an Advanced Rooftop Controller on your existing HVAC unit to optimize supply air for occupancy.
4. Ensure manual thermostats are turned off when the building is vacant. Consider upgrading to a programmable thermostat.
5. Open windows to provide fresh air, when possible.

**Lighting**

1. Be sure all lights except security and emergency lights are turned off.
2. Verify occupancy sensors are turning lights off when no one is present. Consider reducing the amount of time the sensor leaves the light on when triggered.
3. Consider replacing lamps in emergency and exterior fixtures with LEDs.

**Office Equipment**

1. Ensure computers, printers, scanners, etc. are turned off or in energy saver mode.
2. Unplug unused equipment, such as coffee makers, water coolers and microwave ovens to reduce standby energy usage.

**Manufacturing equipment**

1. Turn off and unplugged unused equipment such as air compressors, machining equipment and other process equipment.
2. De-energize transformers serving unused equipment. Check for large transformers “humming” that no longer power equipment.

Silicon Valley Power’s energy engineers are available to assist you in identifying potential equipment for shut down or modified operation and to provide assistance with energy efficiency equipment upgrades and rebates. To schedule an appointment, please call 408-615-6650 or email savemoney@siliconvalleypower.com.

---

**DeAnna Hilbrants**

**Assistant Director**

**Background:** DeAnna Hilbrants came to SVP from the City of Millbrae, where she served as Deputy City Manager and Finance Director. Through her various experiences in leadership, information technology, public safety, social services, finance and accounting, DeAnna uses her broad subject area expertise to benefit SVP. “I see myself as a public administration generalist and change-maker through technology,” she said. DeAnna considers SVP to be a model organization when it comes to strategic planning, specifically around climate and sustainability.

**Comment:** DeAnna values her team for their can-do work ethic and rich experience. “They really focus on doing what’s right for the customer and are open to new approaches to make that happen.”

**Favorite pastime:** DeAnna takes several hip-hop classes and enjoys riding bikes and day hiking. Her favorite spot is Lake McLeod in the eastern Sierra. “You don’t realize how hard a half mile can be at 9,000 feet when you’ve been at sea level for so long.”

**Working at SVP:** In her role as Assistant Director of Business Services, DeAnna manages contracting and financial guidelines so that SVP is not only compliant but always doing better, in the spirit of continuous improvement.