



What is Project Conserve?

Project Conserve is an outreach and education program designed to teach the average person simple ways to conserve energy, save money on their heating, electrical, and water bills, reduce landfilled waste, save on transportation, and live an overall greener lifestyle.

The program is free; the knowledge is invaluable. Project Conserve is a one-of-a-kind program available to residents living near Elk River, Minnesota.

PROJECT CONSERVE

This Issue

How to **GREEN** your Office
Ask the Experts: Green ER Businesses
Seasonal Conservation Tips

How to **GREEN** your Office:

Resources to make your workplace more environmentally conscious

Project Conserve challenges you to put your conservation practices to work. The following are resources and ideas to help you **GREEN** your workplace and reduce its impact on the environment.

Energy

- Contact your utility company for ways to reduce usage. Ask about having an energy audit conducted on your business.

Waste

- Have our environmental staff or MN Waste Wise conduct a waste audit to see how you could better utilize recycling options or reduce waste produced.
- Contact your waste hauler to see if Organics Recycling is an option.

Purchasing

- Check out the [Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Guide](#) to get info on smart purchasing.

Water

- Visit www.wateruseitwisely.com for 50+ tips on how to reduce water usage at the office

Transportation

- Consider biking to work or signing up for a carpool program to reduce the impacts of your commute. Check out websites like www.erideshare.com/

If you work in Elk River encourage your company to participate in the [Energy City High Five Program](#). It's like Project Conserve for your workplace!

Celebrate National Bike to Work Week!

May 14th-18th

For one whole week leave your car in the garage and instead bike to work! People across the country celebrate this week by enjoying the many health, environmental and economic benefits of biking.



For more information visit the League of American Bicyclists at www.bikeleague.org



City Hall
13065 Orono Parkway
Elk River, Minnesota
763-635-1000
Monday-Friday
8:00-4:30

Ask the Experts

Q. What are Elk River Businesses doing to be more environmentally friendly?

A.

Several businesses in Elk River have implemented measures to be more environmentally friendly. One way the City recognizes these achievements is through the Energy City High Five program. Faribault Foods received the 2011 Energy City High Five Award. They received this award for exhibiting excellent leadership skills in business with regard to resource conservation & environmental sustainability by achieving the following:

- Instituted a business recycling program (including paper, plastics, and cardboard)
- Completely implemented energy efficient lighting (including occupancy sensors throughout the building)

- Received an energy audit and implemented at least one recommendation (installing dock seals to prevent heat loss)
- Mandated computer shut down at the end of the work day to save electricity
- Used natural landscape techniques to reduce the necessity for irrigation
- Provided desk-side recycling for their employees
- Mandated duplex (two-sided) printing
- Installed auto sensors on all faucets
- Installed hand air dryers to reduce waste
- Installed vending misers on all vending machines
- Purchased (and continue to use) paper with a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content
- Installed a rain garden for storm water treatment and infiltration
- Attended an Energy City event for businesses
- Invited a City efficiency specialist to make a staff meeting presentation to improve efficiency
- Taken part in a rebate program from Elk River Municipal Utilities
- Offered bicycle parking
- Worked with the City's Water and Sewer professionals toward greater efficiency

This Month's Conservation Tips

At Your Workplace

Computing Savings

Unless your office updates programs at night, turn off the computer and monitor at the end of the day.

Paper Saver

According to the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance, the average office worker uses 10,000 sheets of copy paper each year. If your company does not already have it as their default printer setting, set your computer up to print duplex only.

Team Green

Form a Green Team with other employees at work that are interested in conserving resources.

Task Lighting

Only use required lights. For example a teacher working alone in a classroom may only require the row of lights above her desk.