

BROKEN ARROW

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

BIG SAVINGS FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS

By: Public Service Company of Oklahoma

How can an energy audit help my small business?

No one likes the word 'audit,' however an energy audit is a different story. An energy audit (or consultation) for your small business is simple — not to mention helpful. It provides a deep dive into where you might be losing energy during your day-to-day operations — ultimately costing you dollars to your bottom line. PSO has a network of small business energy consultants who can help your business find ways to optimize energy use and meet sustainability goals along the way.

How does it work?

A typical energy audit begins with a visit from one of our small business energy consultants. Your consultant will complete a walkthrough of your business to determine what energy-saving opportunities are available — primarily lighting and refrigeration. From there, you'll receive a custom project proposal that illustrates your business's energy-saving potential. If you choose to implement the recommended upgrades, your energy consultant will schedule a separate day to complete the work and deduct the PSO rebates directly from your invoice. You'll only pay for your portion, which is normally around 30% of the total project cost.

Energy consultants are assigned based on the ZIP code of your business. You can find your energy consultant using our interactive tool, and from there you can schedule your free energy audit directly from our website.

NOTE: Small businesses and nonprofit organizations that use 320,000 kWh or less annually are eligible.

What can I do in the meantime to save energy?



If you're not quite ready for an energy audit, here are a few quick energy-saving tips to help manage energy costs and keep your business comfortable all year.

- **Seal leaks and gaps** - Did you know that leaky ducts can allow up to 30% of the air to escape? Examine accessible ductwork for leaks and seal them with mastic tape. Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal gaps around doors and windows to save energy.
- **Maintain your heating and cooling system** - As seasons shift, have your system cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional to make sure it is running at the highest efficiency level possible. Check all air filters regularly and replace them throughout the year as needed. Dirty or clogged filters reduce air flow, increasing energy consumption.
- **Make sure your insulation is adequate** - Insulation is your primary defense against energy loss. If your building is well-insulated, less air will escape, making your workplace more comfortable. If your business needs additional insulation, PSO offers rebates to help you save.
- **Update your thermostat** - Having a programmable thermostat is one of the most effective ways to reduce heating and cooling costs. During low-occupancy hours, set the thermostat several degrees lower compared to peak times for significant energy savings. You can also upgrade to a smart thermostat that monitors and automatically adjusts the temperature based on the time of day or your business's hours.

Whether you choose to take advantage of an energy audit or decide to make small improvements to your small business, your bottom line is sure to benefit. So, enjoy the comfort of having an energy efficient operation that helps create a sustainable business.