

# A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR UNDERSTANDING ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES

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Retrofit.LA

Conserving energy can seem like a daunting task, but by following a few simple steps and rules of thumb, you can get a handle on how your building uses energy, where savings opportunities are, and how you can move forward.

**STEPS**



1. Look at the typical energy use breakdown for your type of building
2. Estimate the value of each category based on your annual energy spend (\$)
3. Identify which mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems you have in the building
4. Review applicable systems' best practices and how your systems compare
5. Understand how multiple Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) work together and may have interactive effects

**STEP 1: ENERGY USE BREAKDOWN**

The table below, from the U.S. Department of Energy, reflects projected national averages for 2025 based on sample buildings. Weather has an effect on where a building spends energy. In the Southwest, cooling represents more energy use than heating as compared to the Northeast, meaning that those numbers would be adjusted accordingly. Quality of insulation is another factor that could require you to make adjustments for your building. The "SEDS" line is simply a quantification of this variability from building to building and should be allocated as appropriate to other categories for your building (i.e., added to Space Cooling in L.A.)

Buildings Energy Data Book: 3.3 Commercial Sector Expenditures

March 2012

3.3.6 2025 Commercial Energy End-Use Expenditure Splits, by Fuel Type (\$2010 Billion) (1)

|                    | Percent     | Natural     | Petroleum  |            |            |            | Coal (3)    | Electricity | Total        |              |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
|                    |             | Gas         | Distil.    | Resid.     | LPG        | Oth(2)     |             |             |              |              |
| Lighting           | 15.2%       |             |            |            |            |            | 30.1        | 30.1        |              |              |
| Space Heating      | 13.3%       | 17.1        | 2.8        | 1.5        |            | 0.1        | 4.5         | 26.1        |              |              |
| Electronics        | 5.7%        |             |            |            |            |            | 11.2        | 11.2        |              |              |
| Space Cooling      | 7.4%        | 0.3         |            |            |            |            | 14.3        | 14.6        |              |              |
| Water Heating      | 4.3%        | 5.2         | 0.8        |            |            |            | 2.5         | 8.5         |              |              |
| Computers          | 2.8%        |             |            |            |            |            | 5.5         | 5.5         |              |              |
| Refrigeration      | 4.8%        |             |            |            |            |            | 9.4         | 9.4         |              |              |
| Ventilation        | 8.4%        |             |            |            |            |            | 16.6        | 16.6        |              |              |
| Cooking            | 1.4%        | 2.1         |            |            |            |            | 0.6         | 2.7         |              |              |
| Other (4)          | 21.5%       | 4.8         | 0.3        |            | 4.3        | 1.7        | 6.3         | 42.3        |              |              |
| Adjust to SEDS (5) | 15.2%       | 5.9         | 4.9        |            |            |            | 19.2        | 30.0        |              |              |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>100%</b> | <b>35.5</b> | <b>8.9</b> | <b>1.5</b> | <b>4.3</b> | <b>1.9</b> | <b>16.5</b> | <b>0.2</b>  | <b>145.0</b> | <b>197.1</b> |

**Note(s):** 1) Expenditures include coal and exclude wood. 2) Includes kerosene space heating (\$0.1 billion) and motor gasoline other uses (\$1.7 billion). 3) Coal average price is from AEO 2011 Early Release, all users price. 4) Includes service station equipment, ATMs, medical equipment, telecommunications equipment, pumps, lighting, emergency electric generators, and manufacturing performed in commercial buildings. 5) Expenditures related to an energy adjustment EIA uses to relieve discrepancies between data sources. Energy attributable to the commercial buildings sector, but not directly to specific end-uses.

**Source(s):** EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2012 Early Release, Jan. 2012, Summary Reference Case Tables, Table A2, p. 3-5, Table A3, p. 6-8 for prices, and Table A5, p. 11-12 for energy consumption; EIA, National Energy Modeling System (NEMS) for AEO 2012 Early Release, Jan. 2012; and EIA, Supplement to the AEO 2012 Early Release, Jan. 2012, Table 32.



In simplified terms, here in Los Angeles you might expect a breakdown like this:

1. **Lighting 20%** (plus or minus a few percent depending the efficiency of your lighting)
2. **Heating 15%** (could be much less if you have high plug loads and old lighting)
3. **Cooling 30%** (could be higher if you have high plug loads and old lighting)
4. **Domestic Hot Water 3%** (pretty standard, but will be higher if you have a kitchen or gym)
5. **Everything Else 32%** (this is your plug loads and tenant systems)



**STEP 2: ESTIMATE YOUR ANNUAL VALUES**

Allocate the dollars from your annual energy bill according to your estimated energy use breakdown. For instance, if you spend a \$1,000,000 a year in energy, you likely spend somewhere around \$200,000 a year in lighting energy. Then, when a technology states a typical savings of 25% in lighting, you can estimate that will be worth \$50,000 in annual savings to you (25% x \$200,000 / year).

**STEP 3: IDENTIFY YOUR MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, AND PLUMBING SYSTEMS**

Answer the questions below to help you identify potential savings opportunities. This list is brief and there are many other possibilities, so ask someone who knows the building very well to identify the following:

**Lighting** | do you have...

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Incandescent lamps?                                       | <input type="radio"/> |
| T-12 tube fluorescent lamps?                              | <input type="radio"/> |
| Older 32 watt T-8 lamps, or BIAX type fluorescent lights? | <input type="radio"/> |
| HID parking garage or pole lights?                        | <input type="radio"/> |
| Old exit signs?   | <input type="radio"/> |

**HVAC** | do you have...

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Package units on the roof?  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Heat-pumps in the building with a cooling tower and boiler?                           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Air handlers for fan-coil units with chilled water and a central plant with chillers? | <input type="radio"/> |
| An old 'double-duct' system, or is it newer VAV style?                                | <input type="radio"/> |
| Electric heating or do you use boilers?   | <input type="radio"/> |

**Plumbing and Pumps** | do you have...

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Pumps over 5 horsepower and if so, do they have VFDs on them?               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Natural gas or electric water heating?                                      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Low flow faucets?   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Toilets and urinals that are high efficiency "HET" style or are they older? | <input type="radio"/> |
| A cooling tower? Does it have good filtration and water treatment?          | <input type="radio"/> |
| Efficient landscape irrigation? (ie., drip irrigation.)                     | <input type="radio"/> |

**Controls** | do you have...

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Timers or occupancy sensors for your lights?                             | <input type="radio"/> |
| Programmable thermostats for your air conditioning system?               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Internet connected irrigation controls or just a timer?                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| A full building automation system or energy management system?           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sub-metering on supplemental loads or tenants?                           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Elevators that are controlled by a computer instead of old relay panels? | <input type="radio"/> |



STEP 4: BEST PRACTICES AND CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR YOUR SYSTEMS

| System   | Description of Energy Saving Idea              | Estimated Savings on the Specific Equipment (not entire category)   | Simple Payback Period (years) | Potential Costs (rule of thumb)  | Secondary Benefits  | Incentive(s)  |
|----------|--|---|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Lighting | Ceiling lighting improvements                  | 10-50% on lighting power.<br>Applications:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retrofit existing fixture</li> <li>• Commercial grade (lensed) – new fixture</li> <li>• Architectural grade – new fixture</li> </ul> | 1-4                           | \$100-\$200 / kit – installed<br>\$175 / fixture – installed<br>\$250 / fixture – installed  | Improved color rendering reduces eye strain and improves employee productivity while reducing absenteeism   | -LADWP CLIP for lighting-only projects.<br><br>-LADWP CPP for projects that include lighting + additional measures. |
| Lighting | Outdoor lighting improvements                  | 25-60% on lighting power and better visibility.<br>Applications:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area / site lighting</li> <li>• Floodlighting</li> <li>• Wall mount (wallpack)</li> </ul>                      | 2-5                           | <b>Installed area / site lighting</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1000 area fixture &lt;400W</li> <li>• \$1500 area fixture &gt;400W</li> </ul> <b>Installed floodlighting</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$500 large area fixture</li> <li>• \$350 small landscape fixture</li> </ul> <b>Installed wall mount (wallpack)</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$350 area fixture</li> <li>• \$250 small egress fixture</li> </ul> | Improves contrast and color rendering improving visibility on security cameras. Improved distribution of light reduces dark areas and is more likely to provide lower light pollution levels and improve “dark sky” performance | -LADWP CLIP for lighting-only projects.<br><br>-LADWP CPP for projects that include lighting + additional measures. |
| Lighting | Garage lighting improvements                   | 25-80% on lighting power and better visibility<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linear LED solution</li> <li>• Canopy LED solution</li> </ul>  | 1-4                           | \$100 / linear ft. - installed<br>\$500 / fixture - installed  | Improved security camera appearance and improved safety due to more even and higher quality light   | -LADWP CLIP for lighting-only projects.<br><br>-LADWP CPP for projects that include lighting + additional measures. |
| Lighting | Change 50W MR16 bulb to LED approximately 7-9W | About 60-75% on lighting lower and longer life (over 100% if including HVAC costs)  | 0-2                           | \$30-\$45 installed  | Greatly reduced heat, longer life reduces maintenance costs up to 80%, no discernable color or brightness difference between halogen and LED  | -LADWP CLIP for lighting-only projects.<br><br>-LADWP CPP for projects that include lighting + additional measures. |
| Lighting | Exit sign replacements                         | 50 -100% - some exit signs require no power<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LED solution (&lt; 5 watts)</li> <li>• Tritium solution (0 watts)</li> </ul>  | 0-2                           | \$50 / fixture - installed<br>\$300 / fixture - installed  | Reduces maintenance greater than 80% and gives a fresh, clean look  | -LADWP CLIP for lighting-only projects.<br><br>-LADWP CPP for projects that include lighting + additional measures. |
| Lighting | Stairwell lighting improvements                | 30-80% on lighting power<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensored / vandal resistant</li> <li>• Non-sensored / non-vandal resistant commercial solution</li> </ul>  | 1-3                           | \$400 / fixture - installed<br>\$200 / fixture - installed   | Improved safety due to higher quality light and longer life producing fewer burned out lights   | -LADWP CLIP for lighting-only projects.<br><br>-LADWP CPP for projects that include lighting + additional measures. |
| AC       | Cooling tower fan VFDs                         | 20-50% on the fans with some benefit to the chillers  | 2-3                           | Retrofit to NEMA 3R VFD:<br>\$450/HP w/controls connection, retrofit indoor wall mount basic \$250/HP  | Varying the speed of VFDs stabilizes the condenser water and slightly increases chiller efficiency  | LADWP CPP   |

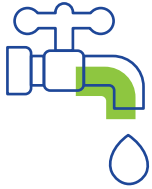
| System             | Description of Energy Saving Idea                 | Estimated Savings on the Specific Equipment (not entire category)        | Simple Payback Period (years) | Potential Costs (rule of thumb)   | Secondary Benefits   | Incentive(s)             |
|--------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| AC                 | Condenser water pump VFDs                         | 10-30% and helps chiller, but requires BAS                               | 3                             | Retrofit to NEMA 12 VFD: \$250/HP w/controls connection   | Enables tight control of water flow and slightly increases chiller efficiency  | LADWP CPP                |
| AC                 | Chilled water pump VFDs                           | 20-50% on chilled water pumps  | 1-2                           | Retrofit where no VFD prior, connect to existing control system, NEMA 12:\$250/HP                     | Increases control of water flow and provides greater air handler efficiency  | LADWP CPP                |
| AC                 | Chiller VFDs                                      | 15-30% on the chillers   | 3-6                           | Minimum 300 ton chiller to retrofit to VFD, w/controls connection & new control panel: \$125-\$200/HP | When accompanied by pump and tower VFDs, can reduce noise, extend life, improve redundancy   | LADWP CPP                |
| AC                 | VFDs on air handlers and other fans               | 20-40% in fan HP   | 2-4                           | Retrofit to VFD, controls connection, NEMA 12: \$250/HP   | Reduces noise, improves tenant comfort   | LADWP CPP                |
| AC                 | Discharge air & supply water temp reset           | 2-5% on HVAC   | 1-2                           | \$1200/AHU and \$10,00 per central plant  | Reduces demand of your mechanical equipment, potentially extending service life  | LADWP CPP                |
| AC                 | Outside air economizer                            | 3-7% on HVAC   | 2-4                           | \$3,0000 per AHU to repair and \$500 to reprogram   | Has added benefit of providing extra outdoor air for purging building of airborne contaminants and creating a healthier indoor environment | LADWP CPP                |
| AC                 | Night time setback                                | 2-5% on HVAC   | 1                             | \$1200-\$10,000 per building depending on systems   | Reduces demand of your mechanical equipment, potentially extending service life  | LADWP CPP                |
| AC                 | CO sensors on parking garage fans                 | 30 – 80% in garage fans  | 2-6                           | \$.35-\$.40/ square foot on average depending on size   | Reduces demand of your mechanical equipment, potentially extending service life  | LADWP CPP                |
| AC                 | Replace old motors with premium efficiency motors | 2-10% motors consume huge amounts of energy, so a little goes a long way | 2-8                           | \$460/ HP, includes drive side sheaves and new belts, OT labor  | When located in the conditioned air stream, they produce less heat lowering the load on your HVAC equipment as well                        | LADWP CPP                |
| AC                 | Complete chilled water system balancing           | 5-10% on pumping costs   | 1                             | \$1000-\$5,000 depending on size of systems   | Returns heat exchangers and coils to proper working flow rates improving heat transfer and reducing demand on mechanical equipment         | LADWP CPP                |
| Plumbing and Pumps | Faucet aerators                                   | About 1 gallon per person per day  | 1                             | \$5-\$10 each   | In addition to saving water, they also save hot water which also reduces heating energy  | See Water Rebate Summary |



| System                   | Description of Energy Saving Idea             | Estimated Savings on the Specific Equipment (not entire category) | Simple Payback Period (years) | Potential Costs (rule of thumb)   | Secondary Benefits   | Incentive(s)             |
|--------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| Plumbing and Pumps       | Shower heads in bathrooms                     | About 10 gallons per clean person                                 | 1                             | \$5-\$20 each   | In addition to saving water, they also save hot water which also reduces heating energy  | See Water Rebate Summary |
| Plumbing and Pumps       | Toilet/flush valves                           | About 2.5 gallons per person on compatible toilets                | 4-5                           | \$500-\$600 each  | Some new toilets and flush valves are of very high quality and durability reducing maintenance costs as well   | See Water Rebate Summary |
| Plumbing and Pumps       | Waterless urinals                             | About 2 gallons per male person per day                           | 1-3                           | \$500-\$700 each  | While requiring slightly greater maintenance for cleaning, they rarely require repair  | See Water Rebate Summary |
| Controls                 | Install building automation                   | 10-30% all mechanical systems                                     | 3-7                           | \$25,000-\$200,000 depending on system<br>\$1000-1500/zone in DDC depending on system | When planned correctly, also enables recovery of monies from providing over-standard services  | LADWP CPP                |
| AC                       | Insulate bare piping for chillers and boilers | 1-3%, but has no maintenance and long life                        | 2                             | \$3 - \$8 / foot depending on repairs and size  | Typically just for energy savings, but does present a more upscale appearance  | LADWP CPP                |
| Operations & Maintenance | Fix steam leaks                               | 10-25% on steam costs   | 1                             | \$1,000 and up depending on size of system  | When located in conditioned areas, this saves substantial HVAC cooling energy as well  | LADWP CPP                |
| Operations & Maintenance | Repair air compressor leaks                   | 25-50% on compressor costs  | 1                             | \$1000-\$5,000 depending on size and complexity                                       | Reducing the load on compressors extends service life and reduces life cycle costs   | LADWP CPP                |
| Envelope                 | Window film                                   | Improved tenant comfort and 5-15% on HVAC                         | 2-5                           | Good=\$4 per SF<br>Better=\$6 per SF<br>Best=\$10 per SF                              | Also provides a cleaner outward building appearance and reduces tenant complaints of discomfort from the sun   | LADWP CPP                |
| Operations & Maintenance | Laundry operations and water optimization     | 20-40%  | 2-3                           |   | Reduces demand on heating equipment and ventilation systems, potentially extending life expectancy   | LADWP CPP                |
| Operations & Maintenance | Retro-commissioning                           | 20% on all systems retro-commissioned                             | 1-2                           | \$0.25 per SF   | Designed to put all systems back into peak performance, this reduces unnecessary load on all equipment and reduces repair costs, increases life expectancy, and improves performance potentiall reducing tenant complaints | LADWP CPP                |

**STEP 5: UNDERSTANDING ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURE INTERACTIVE EFFECTS**

**Measures, such as lighting in the occupied space, have interactive effects with other systems.** It is important to understand what adds to your savings and what diminishes it. For instance, lighting produces heat that your air conditioning has to remove. Therefore, saving on your indoor lighting wattage will reduce how much cooling you need to provide in summer, but slightly increase your need for heating in winter.



**Another example is installing faucet aerators.** You save money in water, but you also save a little energy as tenants use less domestic hot water.



**Retrofitting your central plant might save you a lot of money and have a good payback; however, installing window film, setting your thermostats up in summer, and retrofitting your lighting all help reduce the load on your central plant.** Let's say your plant costs \$500,000 a year to run and you plan a central plant retrofit to save you 20% or \$100,000 a year. However, you already are retrofitting the lighting, windows, controls, and ventilation — all of which will reduce the demand of your central plant by \$100,000 a year. This means that when you install your central plant retrofit, 20% is now only \$80,000 and the retrofit payback may no longer meet your investment criteria.



**Consider interactive effects when picking and prioritizing ECMs.** Engaging the right project manager and project engineer can help you maximize your return on investment by guiding you to retrofits that work well together as a package. Quite often, spending money in one area can help preserve your capital dollars in another area by maximizing the interactive synergies of multiple retrofits. You may find that you do not need that million dollar chiller plant after all.

