

Go Green. Grow Strong.

Green Business Newsletter

Issue 1

August 2015

Reduce Your Energy Costs

The business case for being energy efficient

In an increasingly competitive marketplace, businesses of all sizes are trying to find ways to increase their profitability by increasing revenues or decreasing expenses. In Ontario, energy prices are a large expense for many businesses, especially as they continue to rise. Since 2006, energy prices have risen 58%. For most businesses, improving energy efficiency is one of the easiest and cost-effective ways to reduce their energy expense. According to ENERGY STAR, simple energy management can save up to 10% annually on energy costs. Significantly higher savings are possible without sacrificing comfort or performance.

Beyond direct cost reduction, sustainable practices can build brand loyalty. Consumers and employees are becoming increasingly aware of global climate concerns and are choosing companies that align with their values of sustainability. Therefore, businesses that can demonstrate they are reducing their ecological footprint may increase their brand loyalty and connection.

There are many programs available to businesses to upgrade and retrofit fixtures, systems, and buildings to be energy efficient. This issue features the saveONenergy incentive program.

Sources: *The Business Case for Energy Efficiency*, energystar.gov; *Historical Energy Prices*, ontarioenergyboard.ca

What You Can Do

The saveONenergy programs can help you increase your efficiency and reduce your energy costs

The saveONenergy conservation programs offer many incentives to business owners to undertake and implement energy-saving measures in their company. The saveONenergy programs are offered through local utility companies across the

saveONenergy[™]

province, and funded by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), formerly the Ontario Power Authority (OPA). The programs are designed to make it easy and worthwhile to improve your energy efficiency and reduce your energy costs.

Savings Spotlight



The Simcoe County District School Board has saved over \$3.5 million as a result of energy efficiency upgrades and retrofit measures implemented in several schools between 2009 and 2013.

In June 2014, the board approved a broader conservation management plan for 28 other schools, which is expected to reduce energy costs by \$5 million. For example, Banting Memorial High School in Alliston spends approximately \$98,000 per year on energy costs—the planned retrofits are expected to save the school \$59,000.

The Board's plan also projects annual savings of \$600,000 by eliminating over 2,700 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over the next five years.

Original Story: *Simcoe County District School Board pushing energy efficiency*, Cheryl Browne, Barrie Examiner. Published July 19, 2014

Energy Saving Tip



Did you know that a simple **exit sign** using traditional incandescent bulbs costs around **\$85 per year to operate?**

The cost of electricity alone is over \$40 per year* to keep it lit 24/7, but once you factor in the cost of bulbs and the labour costs for maintenance, each sign costs approximately \$85 per year.

How many exit signs are in your building?

Switch to LED exit signs! The average LED bulb uses a fraction of the energy a traditional bulb does, and lasts far longer. Although the bulbs are more expensive, **they can last over 100,000 hours.** This means you can eliminate the related maintenance costs because they **don't have to be replaced for over 10 years!**

A typical LED exit sign will cost about **\$6.00 per year**** to operate—that's **savings of \$79 per sign per year!**

*based on a sign using 350.4 kWh annually, at an average rate of \$0.116 per kWh

**based on an LED sign using 26.28kWh annually, at an average rate of \$0.116 per kWh, plus initial bulb and labour costs, amortized over 10 years

Source: Enter at the Exit, opportunitiesustainability.com

Whether you own a small business, or an industrial manufacturing facility, there are saveONenergy programs available for businesses of all sizes, and across all sectors, including:

- **Retrofit Program:** receive up to 50% of project costs for upgrading older, or inefficient equipment
- **Audit Funding:** receive up to 50% of the cost of an energy audit to identify opportunities for energy efficiency upgrades and eligible incentives
- **Processes and Systems:** receive up to \$50,000 for engineering studies and up to 70% of capital costs for energy efficiency upgrades
- **Small Business Lighting:** qualifying businesses can receive up to \$1,500 in new energy efficient lighting
- **peaksaver PLUS:** is a voluntary program, where participants are compensated to install a load-management device on electric water heaters or air conditioning units, which may be signaled for up to 4 hours to reduce the demand of these units during periods of peak demand, typically hot summer days

saveONenergy also offers several other incentives for compressed air, motors, variable frequency drives (VFDs), and unitary AC or rooftop units (RTUs). Please contact your local utility to discuss the specific programs available in your service area.

Check out [this case study](#) of Mondelēz Canada and their saveONenergy success story.

Finding Support

Local utilities and Community Futures Development Corporations

The saveONenergy program is funded by the Independent Electricity Systems Operator, and offered through local electric utilities across the province. For more information on the programs and support in sustainability measures, contact your local utility:

Collus PowerStream

e: saveONenergybusiness@powerstream.ca
t: 1-855-215-7235

InnPower Corporation

e: learntoconserve@innpower.ca
t: (705) 431-4321

Midland PUC

Blaine Osmond, Energy Services Manager
e: bosmond@midlandpuc.on.ca
t: (705) 526-9361

Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution

Jeff Field, Energy Services Manager
e: jfield@nmhydro.ca
t: (905) 953-8548 Ext. 2333

Orillia Power Distribution Corporation

Lisa Rae, Manager of Conservation
e: lrae@orilliapower.ca
t: (705) 326-7315

PowerStream Inc.

e: saveONenergybusiness@powerstream.ca
t: (905) 532-1059

Wasaga Distribution Inc.

e: hydro@wasagadist.ca
t: (705) 429-2590

For more information about *Skills for the Green Economy*, contact:

Suzanne Ainley, Project Manager
suzanne@nottawasaga.com
1-800-509-7554 || (705) 435-1540

Looking for financing resources? Are you taking advantage of the saveONenergy programs, or have an energy retrofit plan? Need financial assistance to fund the remaining cost of the upgrades or retrofits? Contact your local Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC). The CFDCs are federally funded, not-for-profit organizations that work with community partners to help develop and strengthen the local economy through business financing and counselling. Contact your local office to explore options.

For more information about *Skills for the Green Economy*, contact:
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Next Steps

Green Energy Doors Open and World Wildlife Fund's Living Planet @ Work



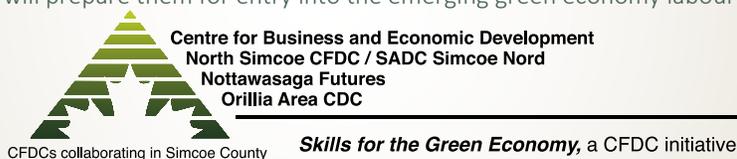
SAT OCT 3, 2015

Green Energy Doors Open -- Have you already implemented energy-saving measures or retrofitted your business? Showcase your sustainable energy projects during the province-wide Green Energy Doors Open event on October 3rd. It's free to participate and be a host, and it's an opportunity to promote your business and the sustainable initiatives happening in Simcoe County. By opening your doors, it gives local consumers and the public a chance to see and experience first-hand what you've done. Check out greenenergydoorsopen.ca for more information about the event or to register.

Living Planet @ Work – Looking for other ways to incorporate sustainability into your workplace? Check out the WWF Living Planet @ Work website for over 100 green actions that you and your team can implement at work. From employee engagement activities to sustainability recording toolkits, Living Planet @ Work has many free resources to help inspire and drive your green initiatives further. Find it all at atwork.wwf.ca

If you no longer want to receive information from *Skills for the Green Economy*, please reply to suzanne@nottawasaga.com with 'Green Skills Opt-Out' as the subject.

Skills for the Green Economy is a collaborative initiative of the four Community Futures Development Corporations in Simcoe County. The purpose of the *Skills for the Green Economy* initiative is to address and bridge the identified green skilled labour shortage in the economy within Simcoe County, with a focus on energy efficiency, green building, and renewable energy. This will be accomplished by linking skilled and unskilled youth (age 15-29) and adults to training programs and cooperative job placements that will prepare them for entry into the emerging green economy labour market.



Federal Economic Development
 Agency for Southern Ontario

Agence fédérale de développement
 économique pour le Sud de l'Ontario