

HOW

TO...

IMPROVE REFRIGERATOR EFFICIENCY



SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITY

In summer 2014, the Office of Sustainability conducted a Plug Load Equipment Inventory that revealed that there are over 2,000 refrigerators on campus that together cost over \$150,000 per year to operate. There are many opportunities to save energy and money by improving the energy efficiency of the refrigerators on campus. Both upgrades and behavior can improve refrigerator performance.

HERE'S HOW:

1) Upgrade refrigerators to energy efficient models

- Identify all common refrigerators that are 15 years old and above. This information can typically be found on the manufacturer's label inside the refrigerator on the top left.
- Purchase an Energy Star certified refrigerator to make sure you achieve the most savings. New Energy Star refrigerators are required to use 20% less energy than non-certified models, and they typically use about 50% less energy than old models.
- Recycle your old refrigerator by calling PSSI at 650.321.4236.
- Rebates of \$75 are available for energy efficient refrigerators. Contact the Office of Sustainability for information on acquiring these rebates.

2) Consolidate refrigerators

If your office space contains common refrigerators, it may be possible to gradually remove personal mini fridges. In return, your common refrigerator will actually be more energy efficient when it is full!

- Contact the Office of Sustainability for information on how many refrigerators are in your office, and talk to your colleagues about the possibility of consolidating these refrigerators.
- Be sure individuals who need personal refrigerators for medical or other reasons are able to use them.
- Make sure any personal fridges that are no longer used are unplugged. If the refrigerators belong to the university, give them to Surplus Sales.

3) Keep refrigerators operating efficiently

- Clean refrigerator coils regularly. Dusty coils force refrigerators to work harder.
- Make sure the seal of your refrigerator is functional. If the seal is no longer effective, cold air will leak out of the fridge. Submit a work order to get your seal replaced if needed.

MORE INFORMATION

CARDINAL GREEN OFFICE PROGRAM

<http://sustainable.stanford.edu/cardinal-green/campaign/cardinal-green-office-program>

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