

Employee Energy Challenge

If Arlington County reduced emissions from energy use in buildings by 10% from 2011 levels, it would be like taking 507 vehicles off the road.

Join us in creating a more sustainable workplace! Review the list of action items below and implement as many as you are able. Don't worry if there are some items you are unable to complete! Email climate@arlingtonva.us to share any success stories. The manual and further information on completing activities in this challenge can be found on AC Source.

To find the manual in AC Source:

1. Go to the AC Source home page
2. Click "News and Info" in the upper left corner
3. Find the heading "AIRE" on the left side
4. Click the (+) sign to expand the suite of options for AIRE
5. Click "Employee Energy Challenge"

Suggested Action Items:

1. **See both sides of the story:** set your computer to double-sided default printing, and confirm that the office copier and printer are set to do the same.
2. **Get cozy with Facilities Management:** report any existing discomfort with heat or air conditioning and any dripping faucets, air leaks or running toilets to your facility coordinator, and continue to do so.
3. **Enjoy daylight savings year round** by using daylight from windows instead of lights when appropriate and adjusting your blinds to control the temperature you feel at your desk.
4. **Ward off vampires** by unplugging electronics when not in use (even electronics that are turned off absorb what is called a "vampire load" when they remain plugged in – including smart phone chargers).
5. **Turn off before you take off:** Turn off all lights, computers, monitors, speakers, printers and other non-essential office machines before you leave work every day, and all lights every time you leave a room.
6. **Keep your trash can clean** by recycling paper, aluminum, glass, plastic, and cardboard in the proper bins.
7. **Defend against disposables** in the kitchen by only using reusable plates, cups, mugs and utensils throughout the day.

8. **Take the first step** and join the Car Free Diet by walking, biking or taking transit to work.
9. **Bag the bag** and always bring reusable tote bags when running errands or buying lunch.
10. **Go green beyond the workplace** and implement these changes in your home as well.

Brighten Your Green

Once you've addressed low-hanging fruit like the above actions items, consider taking it a step further with more innovative ideas such as...

1. **Open a dialogue:** Plan a roundtable lunch for co-workers to watch an environmental documentary or discuss an environmental book.
2. **Get Scrappy:** Set up a bin to collect one-sided scrap paper near each printer on your floor. This paper can then be converted into notebooks in the print shop and handed out to your office mates.
3. **Work Green, Play Green:** Encourage your fellow employees to bring their own reusable materials in for an office party or event.
4. **Collaborate:** Establish an office green team to continue to implement sustainable practices in the office throughout the year.

Contact the AIRE Team at climate@arlingtonva.us if you have any questions or would like any additional resources.



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