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News Release

## **EPA Invites Americans to Bring Their Green to Work**

EPA has a new online tool, ENERGY STAR @ Work that provides Americans with tips and information on how to save energy and protect the environment in the workplace. Simple actions by employees can make a big difference in the overall energy performance of a building. Some of the suggestions included in the Energy Star @ Work tool are:

- Replace bulbs in desk lamps with Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs. These light bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. .
- Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when not using office equipment for completely disconnecting the power supply. Even when turned off, electronic and IT equipment often use a small amount of electricity when plugged in.
- Remember to turn off your lights when leaving conference rooms and your workspace, especially at the end of the day.
- Use Energy Star qualified battery chargers or power adapters which, on average, use 30-35 % less energy than conventional models. Remember to unplug battery chargers or power adapters when equipment is fully charged or disconnected from the charger.
- Get involved! Create a Green Team with your co-workers, help reduce office waste, and set a goal to earn the Energy Star label for your building.

Energy use in commercial buildings and manufacturing plants accounts for nearly half of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 50 % of energy consumption nationwide. With the average American worker spending almost 8 hours a day at their place of employment, the workplace offers a unique opportunity for people to make a significant impact in the fight against global warming. For more information, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or follow this link to the animated image <http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=bygtw.showSplash> of a typical office work space with tips and links to valuable information for use on a daily basis.

*For more information on this or related topics, contact Ruth Brock, Regional Extension Agent for Consumer Science and Personal Financial Management. You can reach her at the St. Clair County office at (205) 338-9416 or email at [brockru@auburn.edu](mailto:brockru@auburn.edu).*

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