

When it comes to reducing energy use and emissions at commercial and industrial facilities, there are a variety of strategies you could implement.

Three proven strategies to look into are:

1. USING AN ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMS)

An EMS monitors conditions in your facility and controls energy-consuming equipment. From a single point, you can measure, monitor and regulate energy-using systems. EMS components often include timers, occupancy sensors, programmable thermostats and other devices. A properly installed and maintained EMS can result in energy savings of 10 to 30 percent.

2. EMPLOYING VARIABLE SPEED DRIVES (VSDs)

VSDs save energy by controlling motor speed based on demand. Virtually any application using motors to operate fans and pumps can find significant savings with VSDs – in both commercial and industrial settings. VSDs are commonly used with HVAC fans, where loads vary from season to season and from day to night. In addition to energy savings, VSDs also help reduce motor maintenance costs, increase equipment life and even improve occupant comfort through airflow and temperature control.

3. INSTALLING LIGHTING CONTROLS

Lighting controls can help you achieve up to 50 percent more lighting energy savings, after upgrading to energy-efficient fixtures. Control systems ensure you're using the right amount of light needed only when you need it. Controls typically include advanced time scheduling, occupancy sensors, task tuning, daylight harvesting and personal control, installed in that order.

All three of these solutions can help you save energy and money. Even better, National Grid offers incentives for each of them.