

conserve
solutions for sustainability



www.conserve.restaurant.org



coffee houses conserve

See how Spoons Coffee Café, Baltimore, Md., uses its influence to create positive change. The company uses renewable energy to decrease its environmental impact, while educating customers.

[Learn More](#)

Did You Know?

More than 60% of restaurants invested in energy-saving equipment in the last two years.



2008 Industry Forecast

Find out green trends and more in restaurants in 2008.

[Learn More](#)



Welcome to NRA Conserve



Join the Movement

The National Restaurant Association's Conserve initiative helps restaurant operators take small and large steps to protect the planet and grow their business.

What's New



- ▶ [Interact with our Virtual Green Restaurant](#)
- ▶ [The "Greening" of the NRA Show](#)
- ▶ [Watch conservation in action!](#)
- ▶ [Learn about NRA Conserve partners](#)

Conserve Success Stories



Energy Efficiency Pays Off

Turning lights off, making sure your dishwasher is full when it runs and implementing other energy saving steps help our environment. But, more important, being energy efficient helps your bottom line.

▶ [See how one restaurant is saving money](#)

Tips & Tools

- ▶ [Top 10 Tips](#)
- ▶ [Facts & Stats](#)
- ▶ [Glossary](#)



Conservation News

- ▶ [ENERGY STAR set June 30 deadline for Small Business Award applications](#)
- ▶ [Hard Rock children's menus include tree-seed packets to encourage kids to plant tree](#)
- ▶ [Chicago restaurants use 100 percent solar-electric car for catering deliveries](#)

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turner foundation, inc.

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About NRA Conserve



Take the Lead

The National Restaurant Association Conserve initiative helps you join fellow restaurateurs in conserving the planet's resources.

The roadmap to environmental responsibility for the restaurant industry follows a path of incremental steps. It is an ongoing process that continually challenges businesses to generate greater efficiencies, reduce waste and expand their capacity to use renewable resources as new technologies and practices become available. In essence, environmental responsibility is a tool -- a way of approaching business decisions that helps businesses achieve their existing strategic goals more efficiently, quickly and cost effectively.

The National Restaurant Association's Conserve initiative is designed to initiate and inspire actions that improve a company's bottom line, but also are good for people and the planet. Conserve explores conservation efforts being adopted by restaurants around the nation and offers suggestions and resources to help you reduce the cost of running your operation -- both to your bottom line and the environment.

Partner Spotlight



Turner Foundation

The National Restaurant Association Conserve Initiative is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Turner Foundation, which is committed to preventing damage to the natural systems -- water, air, and land -- on which all life depends.

[▶ Learn more](#)



Energy Star

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

[▶ Learn more](#)



Food Service Technology Center (FSTC)

The Food Service Technology Center is a scientific testing facility for energy performance of commercial kitchen equipment. In addition to being a clearing house of information on equipment performance, the FSTC also has expertise in commercial kitchen ventilation and building energy efficiency, including lighting, glazing and HVAC.

[▶ Learn more](#)

Did You Know?

Spending on utilities consumes approximately 2.5 percent to 3.4 percent of total restaurant sales.



Tips & Tools

- [▶ Top 10 Tips](#)
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- [▶ Glossary](#)



Watch Conserve in Action



Conservation News

- [▶ Webinar: 5 Things You Need to Know About Energy Efficiency](#)

[▶ See all news](#)



Learn how you can conserve
by clicking on the dots to learn more.
Front of the House
you **Outside**

Tip Number 1

Sweep or blow sidewalks and parking lots clean rather than hose them off with water.

Tip Number 2

Use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation system to water plants and lawns. Set irrigation systems on timers. Plant native shrubs and flowers that require less care and water.



For More Information

The National Restaurant Association Conserve Initiative offers tips, success stories, and more on conserving natural resources. Visit conserve.restaurant.org.

Front of the House

- Outside
- Entry /Waiting Area
- Bar
- Dining Room
- Waste Area

Back of the House

- Restrooms
- Kitchen
- Fridge / Freezer
- Dishwashing
- Building Materials

Virtual Green Restaurant

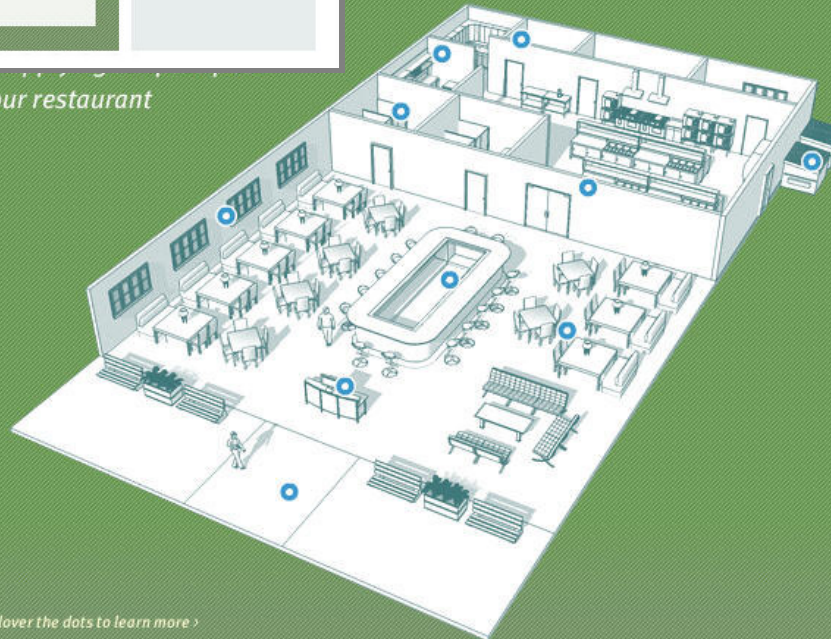
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your restaurant



Rollover the dots to learn more >

[home](#) > [Conserve Now](#) > [Top 10 Tips](#)

Top 10 Tips

1. Turn Off

Turn off interior/exterior lights and cooking hoods when not in use. Install motion detectors in storerooms, offices and restrooms. Set lights on timers.

2. Fix Leaks

Repair leaky faucets and toilets. Stop air leaks by caulking and insulating around leaky windows and doors and installing energy curtains in freezer rooms.

3. Replace Lighting

Replace incandescents with longer lasting CFL light bulbs or LED lights. Replace traditional exit signs with LED exit lighting.

4. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

Follow the 3 R's of sustainability. Reuse furniture, flooring. Recycle paper, plastics, glass and aluminum.

5. Unplug

When not in use, unplug computers, electronics, coffee machines, POS system and any small appliances.

6. Use Less Water

Serve customers water only upon request. Run dishwashers, washing machines only when full. Install low-flow toilets, waterless urinals, tankless water heaters.

7. Train and Inform

Train employees on energy saving procedures and on the importance of energy conservation and water use. Tell customers about your energy efforts.

8. Clean and Maintain

Clean equipment runs more efficiently. Regularly dust and clean appliances, top to bottom. Perform routine preventive maintenance on HVAC, plumbing, appliances, major equipment.

9. Remodel or Build Green

Use low VOC or no VOC paints, recycled flooring and managed forest wood. Install a reflective roof, sun lights and energy-efficient windows.

10. Look for the Energy Star Label

Purchase appliances, electronics and other EPA-tested equipment that carries the Energy Star label.

[▶ Download PDF](#)

[▶ Submit a Tip](#)

Did You Know?

By using a broom instead of a hose to clean your sidewalk, you can save up to 80 gallons of water every time to clean them.

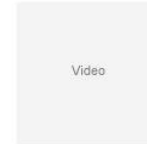


Tips & Tools

- [▶ Top 10 Tips](#)
- [▶ Facts & Stats](#)
- [▶ Glossary](#)



Watch Conserve in Action



Related Content

[home](#) » [Find Resources](#) » State Resources

State Resources

Your state may provide tax rebates or other incentives for reducing your impact on the environment. Stay informed about new programs and resources so you can take advantage of these benefits.

Select your state

Georgia

Georgia

[Department of Energy: Georgia Programs](#)

Federal and state incentives and rebates for renewable and efficient energy projects.

[Georgia Incentives for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency](#)

Federal and state incentives and rebates for renewable and efficient energy projects.

[Green Power Switch](#)

A list of Green power providers.

[Georgia Farm Bureau](#)

News and information on agriculture.

[Recycle Georgia](#)

Find out where you can recycle in Georgia from pallets to aluminum cans.

Did You Know?

According to the U.S. Department of Energy's Center for Sustainable Development, buildings consume 40% of the world's total energy, 25% of its wood harvest and 16% of its water.



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home » **Conserve Now** » Success Stories

Conserve Now

Restaurants at all levels are embracing environmentally friendly practices to see more green in their wallets and in the world. The following stories offer ideas to help your restaurant start down a green path by reducing, reusing and recycling. Read some success stories and contribute your own.



Subway Builds 'Eco Stores'

After an energy summit three years ago, Subway started looking at ways to reduce the worldwide carbon footprint for the chain's 29,000 locations.

[► Learn More](#)



'The Pennies We Saved Soon Became Dollars'

Culver's, Wisconsin, implemented simple processes such as having employees turn cooking hoods off at night. "The pennies we saved soon became dollars," says a company official.

[► Learn More](#)



Spoons "Greens" 120-Year-Old Building

This Baltimore, Md., restaurant put on a "cool" roof so the internal cooling system didn't have to work as hard. That was just the start.

[► Learn More](#)



26 Years of Green Steps, and Counting

Fresh Sourdough Express owners Donna and Kevin Maltz, Homer, Alaska, began implementing environmentally conscious business practices from the time they opened in 1982.

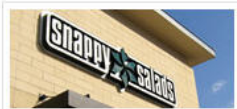
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Going Tankless Yields Savings

The owner of Osteria Nonna Maria, Sheboygan, Wisc., says installing tankless water heaters has resulted in water, money and energy savings.

[► Learn More](#)



Employees Help Cut Water Use

Snappy Salads owner Chris Dahlander says employee involvement has been critical in an aggressive water-saving program in his Dallas, Texas, stores.

[► Learn More](#)

Submit a Story

Are you conserving resources in your restaurant? We want to know! Submit your success story here.

[► Submit a story](#)

Did You Know?

When replacing a roof, installing a reflective roof can directly save up to 40% in heating and cooling energy costs.

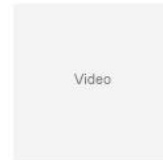


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