

Energy Champion's Guide for Tip #4: Use Your (Green) Senses!

The Opportunity

Now that you have heightened your awareness of energy waste through all of your conservation efforts over the past year, it's time to start listening to your Green Senses. We know that leaving lights and computers on is a waste of electricity, which wastes money and adds greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. But there are other ways that we waste energy and resources every day, sometimes without even realizing it. That's where your "Green Senses" come in. Water is a precious resource and it is important that we conserve it whenever possible. We also don't want to waste energy when air is sneaking through cracks in windows, walls, or doors. So when you hear that "drip drip" or feel a draft near the window, listen to your (green) senses and report that leak. The sooner we can repair it, the more resources and money the City will be saving.

What's the Impact?

Water is a finite resource on this planet and is becoming scarcer, especially with increasing droughts and other changes in precipitation due to climate change. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, many parts of North America and the globe can expect longer and more frequent periods of drought while water *demand* continues to increase (demand has already doubled since WWII). Climate change will likely result in increased water scarcity and a decrease in natural water storage capacity. In other words, water is becoming scarce and it is every individual's responsibility to be aware of their water consumption and take steps to reduce it wherever possible.

In addition to water concerns, air leaks also impact the environment. When we seal an air leak, we prevent energy waste, energy that requires the burning of fossil fuels and results in more greenhouse gas emissions.

- Conserving hot water saves water but also saves energy because heating water requires energy.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency, a leaking toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons of water in
 just one day. A leaky faucet (at about 1 drip per second) wastes 8 gallons a day or over 3,000 gallons a year.
- Plugging an air leak can save as much as 20% on heating and cooling in a building, which saves money, reduces the burning of fossil fuels, and protects the environment.

Role of Employees

Water Leaks

- If you notice that a toilet is continuously running, please report it.
- If you notice that a faucet is dripping (even a slow drip), make sure the knobs are fully in the "off" position. If the drip continues, please report it.
- If you notice a puddle of water gathering in an area or see a pipe leaking, please report it.

Air Leaks/Drafts

- Leaks or drafts to the outside mean that you might be heating (or cooling) the outdoors. It also means that your building's HVAC equipment is working extra hard to normalize the temperature inside.
- Drafts make people uncomfortable and make them more likely to turn on a space heater in the winter, which adds even more to the electricity load.
- If you see light shining through a crack in a window frame or hear or feel air sneaking in where it shouldn't, please report it.



Don't Forget Tip 1-3!

• Continue to **turn off lights, computers, and all other equipment, including air conditioners and fans** when they're not being used and at the end of the day—and remind your colleagues!

How to Report A Leak

To report a leak found in your building, please contact the following (organized by department):

Fire Department:

Call or email Deputy Chief Jim Burns or another member of Technical Services at ext. 4976 or jburns@CambridgeFire.org.

Police Department:

Call or email Chuck Goldman at ext. 3345, 978-994-4851 (cell), or PDBuildingSupport@CambridgePolice.org.

Traffic Department:

Call or email Brad Gerratt at ext. 4722 or bgerratt@cambridgema.gov. If Brad is unavailable, contact Sherry McGregor at the number or email below.

Human Services:

Call or email Paul Ryder at ext. 6229 or pryder@cambridgema.gov. If Paul is unavailable, contact Jeana Franconi at ext. 7715 or jranconi@cambridgema.gov.

Water Department:

Call ext. 4770 or send an email to cwd@cambridgema.gov.

All Other Departments:

Call or email Sherry McGregor at ext. 4840 or smcgregor@cambridgema.gov.

Sources and More Information

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense: http://epa.gov/watersense

Calculate water waste from leaks at this USGS site: http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/sc4.html

Department of Energy, Energy Savers, "Sealing Air Leaks": http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/air_leaks.html

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
Technical Paper VI, "Climate Change and Water":
http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/technical-papers/climate-change-water-en.pdf

