HVAC (Heating / Ventilation / Air Conditioning)

- Tune up the HVAC control system.
- Consider installing a building automation system (BAS) or energy management system (EMS) or restoring an out-of-service one.
- Balance the system to minimize flows and reduce blower/fan/pump power requirements.
- Eliminate or reduce reheat whenever possible.
- Use appropriate HVAC thermostat setback.
- Use morning pre-cooling in summer and pre-heating in winter (i.e. -- before electrical peak hours).
- Use building thermal lag to minimize HVAC equipment operating time.
- In winter during unoccupied periods, allow temperatures to fall as low as possible without freezing water lines or damaging stored materials.
- In summer during unoccupied periods, allow temperatures to rise as high as possible without damaging stored materials.
- Improve control and utilization of outside air.
- Use air-to-air heat exchangers to reduce energy requirements for heating and cooling of outside air.
- Reduce HVAC system operating hours (e.g. -- night, weekend).
- Optimize ventilation.
- Ventilate only when necessary. To allow some areas to be shut down when unoccupied, install dedicated HVAC systems on continuous loads (e.g. -- computer rooms).
- Provide dedicated outside air supply to kitchens, cleaning rooms, combustion equipment, etc. to avoid excessive exhausting of conditioned air.
- Use evaporative cooling in dry climates.
- Reduce humidification or dehumidification during unoccupied periods.
- Use atomization rather than steam for humidification where possible.
- Clean HVAC unit coils periodically and comb mashed fins.
- Upgrade filter banks to reduce pressure drop and thus lower fan power requirements.
- Check HVAC filters on a schedule (at least monthly) and clean/change if appropriate.
- Check pneumatic controls air compressors for proper operation, cycling, and maintenance.
- Isolate air conditioned loading dock areas and cool storage areas using high-speed doors or clear PVC strip curtains.
- Install ceiling fans to minimize thermal stratification in high-bay areas.
- Relocate air diffusers to optimum heights in areas with high ceilings.
- Consider reducing ceiling heights.
- Eliminate obstructions in front of radiators, baseboard heaters, etc.
- Check reflectors on infrared heaters for cleanliness and proper beam direction.
- Use professionally-designed industrial ventilation hoods for dust and vapor control.
- Use local infrared heat for personnel rather than heating the entire area.
- Use spot cooling and heating (e.g. -- use ceiling fans for personnel rather than cooling the entire area).
- Purchase only high-efficiency models for HVAC window units.
- Put HVAC window units on timer control.
- Don't oversize cooling units. (Oversized units will "short cycle" which results in poor humidity control.)
- Install multi-fueling capability and run with the cheapest fuel available at the time.
- Consider dedicated make-up air for exhaust hoods. (Why exhaust the air conditioning or heat if you don't need to?)
- Minimize HVAC fan speeds.
- Consider desiccant drying of outside air to reduce cooling requirements in humid climates.
- Consider ground source heat pumps.

- Seal leaky HVAC ductwork.
- Seal all leaks around coils.
- Repair loose or damaged flexible connections (including those under air handling units).
- Eliminate simultaneous heating and cooling during seasonal transition periods.
- Zone HVAC air and water systems to minimize energy use.
- Inspect, clean, lubricate, and adjust damper blades and linkages.
- Establish an HVAC efficiency-maintenance program. Start with an energy audit and follow-up, then make an HVAC efficiency-maintenance program a part of your continuous energy management program.