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Back to the Basics: Low Hanging Fruit

As more complex projects begin to become implemented, sometimes we forget about the low hanging fruit throughout the facility. Maybe there are things we updated a few years ago, but now need to be updated again. One example is lighting; five years ago, the lighting may have been upgraded to fluorescents, but now LEDs are the most



efficient and cost effective opportunity. In this newsletter we will cover some low hanging fruit options as a reminder of some best practices to be utilized throughout a facility.

- **Lighting** - as mentioned above, lighting is one of the most overlooked low-hanging fruit in a facility. As LEDs have become more common, it is now economically advantageous to retrofit lighting where possible to LEDs. With a return on investment of only a few years, LEDs are the easiest way to cut electricity costs.
- **Insulation** - around boilers and hot water and steam pipes. By insulating these pieces of the process heat loss is reduced allowing the system and process to run more efficiently. If maintenance access is a concern, look for insulation that would have velcro or something similar for easy removal.
- **Preventative maintenance** - a yearly check up on larger systems such as boilers and compressors to ensure they are running properly and efficiently. This allows you to catch issues before it would become catastrophic, and being able to clean any areas with build up that is affecting the efficiency of the equipment.

IWRC Energy Workshop

The Iowa Waste Reduction Center at the University of Northern Iowa, in partnership with the Iowa Association for Energy Efficiency are hosting a one-day workshop addressing energy trends and management in Iowa on March 24 th at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines. Nationally-recognized energy management expert Dr. Eric Woodroof will be the keynote speaker for this event.

Dr. Woodroof will provide an update on global energy/sustainability/utility trends and an overview of policies and tools that can help Iowa businesses and state facilities be more cost competitive with neighboring states. The workshop will also feature sessions from Iowa-based experts in the energy industry covering topics and projects that directly address current and future energy management issues in Iowa.

More information on this exciting event including registration and the full agenda can be found at <https://iwrc.uni.edu/iowa-energy-efficiency/workshop>.

Upcoming events

March 2-4 [2022 IAWEA Collection Systems/PACP Conference](#) Marshalltown

March 21-24 [SOAR webinar](#) Kansas City, MO

March 24 [Energy Workshop](#) Des Moines

March 29 [ILC Foundations of Project Management](#) virtual

April 28-29 [ISOSWO Annual Conference](#) Storm Lake

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