

Rochester City Building Temperature Guidelines

Purpose

The City of Rochester is committed to both continuing reductions in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and to providing a safe and healthy environment for employees and visitors in buildings owned and/or operated by the City of Rochester.

Intended Outcomes

1. Reduction in utility costs associated with the consumption of energy for heating and cooling. The proposed temperatures provide a comfortable working environment while using less energy. They are consistent with recommendations by the US Green Building Council as well as the American Society for Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).
2. Reduction in city greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production of energy for heating and cooling. This will help the city meet its emissions reduction goal and contribute towards curtailing environmental, social and economic impacts of global warming.
3. Leading by example to bring energy use awareness to private businesses and residents. This is an opportunity to encourage the Rochester community to review and reduce energy use on heating and cooling.

Temperature Guidelines

1. Building users may experience a range of temperatures in occupied spaces from 68° to 70° F during the heating season and from 74° to 76° F during the cooling season.
2. Space heaters and portable air conditioning units are prohibited due to potential issues with safety and fire code, and for energy conservation. Considerations may be made for building spaces that are incapable of meeting the heating or cooling temperature setpoints outlined above.
3. During the winter heating season, approximately October 1 to April 30, occupied spaces will be heated to 68-70° F. Non-office spaces such as loading docks and vehicle repair areas will have more variable temperatures.
4. During the summer cooling season, approximately May 1 through September 30, occupied spaces will be cooled to 74-76° F where air conditioning equipment is in place. Areas with more stringent humidity requirements may operate below this range. Non-office spaces and areas without air conditioning equipment will have more variable temperatures.
5. These temperatures apply during times of normal occupancy. Outside of occupied hours temperatures will fall below these ranges during the winter and rise above these ranges in the summer to achieve additional energy savings.

Maximum comfort and efficiency will be achieved when occupants and building managers actively adapt to building conditions with season-appropriate clothing, optimize sunlight exposure with shading devices and, where possible, modify ventilation air flow.

The space temperature ranges are based on established standards for human comfort, productivity and safety. Actual space temperatures may vary across the City's buildings due to the wide range of space types, the assortment of heating and air conditioning equipment, and the various building control systems. Occupants are encouraged to work with local building management staff to achieve acceptable temperature, humidity and ventilation levels achievable with the existing systems. Finally, there may be specific reasons rooms, offices or conferences rooms need to have precise temperatures provided to them. These circumstances will be handled on an individual basis with the appropriate facilities manager.

Adopted 06/16/2020