

## articles

**Welcome to OPEN Forum** **some of our experts**

What you're looking for is right below, but there's a lot more on OPEN Forum you may like.

**Insights** - Learn from experts and other owners

**Connections** - Find businesses with mutual



### 3 Easy Ways Any Business Can Save Money



Jul 02, 2010 -

We hear a lot about the economy turning around -- that businesses are experiencing an upswing.

39

tweets

retweet

Nevertheless, the glory days haven't exactly returned for many businesses, which are still making cuts and whittling budgets down.

Even if your business is doing fine, it never hurts to be smart and trim costs where you can.

Fortunately, some cuts and changes don't require a huge sacrifice. And who knows? You might find your business even gets more out of paying less.

#### Curb your business travel -- and cut costs where you can.

Meeting with long-distance clients can be the most costly, most expendable, but also the most beneficial expense for a business. Fortunately, modern technology can replicate the experience at a much lower cost.

All the way out in Big Sandy, Montana Kamut International, growers and distributors of Kamut Khorasan Wheat have made some significant cuts by using Skype for conducting international conference calls. "We use technology to the fullest to cut down on trips overseas to see our partners," says Kamut International president and founder Bob Quinn.

According to Kamut's CEO Trevor Blyth, when committing to business travel, they try to be flexible with schedules and purchase the least expensive flights, even if it's more challenging. "Most of the time we take public transportation instead of renting cars or taking taxis," says Blyth. "We don't stay in higher-end hotels when a Hampton Inn will do. These items save us thousands of dollars each year. Since we are in the organic/sustainable business these cost-savers help us keep things in perspective, and we feel a duty to live and work in a sustainable way."

#### Get the most out of your headquarters.

Patty Tobin owns a fine jewelry shop in New York City, where the cost of running a business and living is not a trivial expense. Tobin makes it a point to negotiate with her landlord by freezing rent rates, providing a month out of the year lease at no charge, giving credits towards utility charges if not included in rent.

Within her shop she is mindful year-round of heat and air conditioning. "[I am] constantly checking with telephone and cable providers for better rates, too." Better yet, cut out the landline and fax line -- with Blackberrys and iPhones, and everything compatible for email, who needs them?

#### Consider a la carte assistance vs. long-term contracts and hires.

Lisa Krohn runs a personal assisting and organizing company for businesses and entrepreneurs. She consults small companies and individuals, and teaches them to be more efficient, self-sufficient and to rely on themselves -- all while increasing their self-esteem and integrity. "There is no badge of honor for working long hours if you aren't efficient," says Krohn. "I help them re-edit so they use their time better. I undo the multi-tasking because it's actually very inefficient."

Because companies of all sizes hire consultants, a one-person entrepreneur like Krohn is of little expense, as she's paid by the hour. "I am affordable consulting and outsourcing without the ego," says Krohn. "'I'm no-contract and no-lawyer. I just send in an invoice and we're done.'"

Tags: *saving money, shira levine, business travel, financialmanagement, kamut khorasan wheat, trevor blyth, financial management, patty tobi, lisa krohn, business insider*

Article Comments (1)



Public Relations Director (8 days ago)

In today's economic climate, efficiency is the number one rule of survival. One of the

greatest sources of inefficiency for many businesses is the cost of maintaining physical offices and everything that goes along with them – from landline phone systems to utilities to furnishings.

Today's savvy clients don't attach value to lavish offices. They want to be confident that they are investing in results, not overhead and that they are paying for talent and expertise, not conference rooms and copiers.

For more on this topic, here is an article from Fame Foundry that examines other inefficiencies of maintaining unnecessary physical office space. While it pertains specifically to the marketing industry, it makes a compelling case for why companies of all sizes and in all industries should consider going virtual:

<http://www.famefoundry.com/1447/10-things-you-pay-for-from-traditional-marketing-agencies>.

Fame Foundry  
<http://www.famefoundry.com>

**Members of Interest**



STURMAN  
WHITFIELD



CLARITY  
SB:



MEDIUM  
CLICK



DIETY  
STRYCHNINE  
CORP.

DIETY  
STRYCHNI

*These businesses and more can be found inside the Connectodex. The showcase for OPEN Business.*

**You Might Also Like**



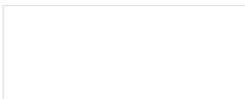
**Don't Let Your Cash Flow Go Down the Drain**  
*Tom Harnish*



**Squeeze More Cash Out of Your Business**  
*Tom Harnish*



**Strapped? Strategies For Improving Your Cash Flow**  
*Anne Field*





*Shira Levine*

**Freelance Writer**

(Business Insider)

*see profile | recent posts*

### Popular Today

1. *Hope: Don't Leave Home Without It*

---
2. *Kid from Queens Grows Up to Be a Wine and Restaurant Mogul*

---
3. *How Businesses are Booming*

---
4. *How 16 Great Companies Picked Their Unique Names*

---
5. *5 Lessons to Learn from Web Startups*

---
6. *Detecting Employee Theft and Occupational Fraud at Your Company*

---
7. *How to Decode the U.S. Immigration Process*

---
8. *Marketing Lessons from South Africa's World Cup Playbook*

---
9. *11 Essential Online Resources for*

9. *Consultants*

10. *How One Business Used Facebook to Break Away from the Pack*

**Featured Experts**  
Rollover for details



*Guy Kawasaki*



*Adam Ostrow*



*Anita Campbell*



*Henry Blodget*



*Scott Belsky*



*John Jantsch*

1 - 6 of 39

**NOTE:** OPEN Forum Terms of Use have changed. Please take a moment to review them as they replace our prior Terms of Use and now govern your access to and use of this site. The new version is posted below.

*Sitemap* | Users of this Site bound by: *OPEN Forum Terms of Use*

**More Products & Services**

- [Gift Cards](#)
- [Membership Rewards® Program](#)
- [Travel Protection](#)
- [Savings Accounts and CDs](#)
- [Small Business Services](#)

**Get an American Express Card**

- [Airlines Credit Cards](#)
- [Small Business Credit Cards](#)
- [Credit Card Rewards](#)
- [No Annual Fee Credit Cards](#)
- [Gold Cards](#)

**Important Links**

- [Resources for Cardmembers](#)
- [Credit Basics](#)
- [Fraud Protection Center](#)
- [Amex Labs](#)
- [Help](#)

**Company Information**

- [About American Express](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Affiliate Program](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Connect](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Card Agreements](#)

All users of our online services subject to Privacy Statement and agree to be bound by Terms of Service. Please read.

© 2010 American Express Company. All rights reserved.