Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my concern that GE Aviation, and many other businesses in Cincinnati, are not doing enough to make their buildings environmentally friendly. I call out GE in particular because they have a large number of buildings across our city and many of them could use an energy efficient facelift.

According to the US Energy Information Administration, commercial building energy usage takes up 20% of the nation’s energy consumption. This is astonishingly too high considering companies, like Melink, are operating their buildings at zero energy. The technology is out there and it works, but I’m not even requesting that GE use that drastic of a measure. Maybe future letters to the editor will be compelling big businesses in Cincinnati, like GE, to hire Melink to make their buildings more efficient, but we have a simpler starting point. I only want a few embarrassingly easy changes to be made: GE should campaign employees to turn off their computers at the end of the day, appropriately heat and cool their buildings, and add natural light. We already know that GE is the champion of the big campaign, as most large corporations are, so convincing their employees to power down their laptops before leaving work should be a cinch. The other two suggestions take pennies of the budget and/or a few hours of the maintenance staff’s time, it’s simple really.

I urge your readers to contact GE Aviation’s CEO, David Joyce, and have him push for energy efficiency updates to his buildings. In addition, I urge readers to start to make these simple changes in their own place of work: power down your laptop, turn off the lights, and bring a sweater, not a space heater, if you’re cold. It’s the little things put together that will combat climate change.

Sincerely,

Miranda Hileman