Energy Conservation for the 2008 Holidays

This year, just as in the past few, the University will be implementing additional measures to reduce energy consumption while the campus is closed for the holiday season. Many of the measures will be implemented by Facilities Management. Your cooperation is needed even more this year to achieve the maximum savings. This newsletter outlines the planned changes and identifies tips for all of us to use at work and at home to reduce our energy consumption over the winter.

The annual Holiday Temperature Set Back will be effective at 5:00 p.m. on December 23rd.

This will affect most areas on campus but not all. Business is conducted by some departments through the break and people still reside on campus. The Energy Management controls system has improved a great deal but the overall success depends on the occupants who are in buildings during the break.

This is what we need to do together:

1) Facilities Management will set the temperature of the water heaters to 110°F. Additionally, the hot water circulating pumps, common in many buildings, will be turned off when the building is idle thereby delaying hot water at the faucet.

2) All classrooms and vacant offices during the holiday break will experience temperature reductions. All buildings not on the central energy management computer system will have their temperature set at 55°F by trained personnel. Facilities Management will make daily temperature checks to verify the settings and will continually monitor space temperatures from remote locations.

3) Facilities Management and others will close windows and window coverings to help keep the heat from escaping through the windows. Occupants in spaces with windows can assist with this process by ensuring before they leave that their windows are closed and window coverings are down.

4) As classes and other functions in a building end, the building will be closed to prevent inefficient use of the space. The heating system will be turned down to holiday set-back of 55°F about 15 minutes before the end of the day. Likewise, outside air introduced for the occupant will be curtailed during the times when the building is closed or unoccupied (research areas and some wet labs will not have the outside air supply curtailed).

5) Facilities Management staff will also be doing the following:
   a. Walking through buildings turning off lights, closing doors, closing windows and window coverings, and checking temperatures.
b. Checking heating, ventilating and air-conditioning controls.
   c. Responding to calls when spaces are too cool for the occupant to work.

6) The campus community is encouraged to turn off lights and lock doors when leaving offices, classrooms and conference rooms.

7) Faculty and staff are encouraged to shut down their computers when possible or at least enable the **sleep settings** on the monitor.

8) If you have to be on campus during the holiday you are encouraged to wear comfortable and sensible attire. Bring a sweater to the office, or dress in layers to be comfortable at various temperatures and avoid changing the thermostats.

9) Remember not to prop open doors leading to the outside. Open doors and windows in the winter can and have caused freeze ups in radiators near windows, resulting in broken water pipes. Open windows and doors send erroneous information to the thermostat causing excessive use of energy. Interior doors left open will compromise the efficient operation of the heating system.

10) Turn off all unneeded electrical appliances, equipment, and lights.

11) The campus community is encouraged to report any “hot areas” to Facilities Management for investigation and repair. Call extension 2780 and leave a message.

**Fun Facts**

When you turn on an incandescent light bulb, only 10 percent of the electricity used is turned into light. The other 90 percent is wasted as heat.

A compact fluorescent light bulb uses 75 percent less energy than a regular bulb – and it can last up to four years.

A crack as small as 1/16th of an inch around a window frame can let in as much cold air as leaving the window open three inches!

A heavy coat of dust on a light bulb can block up to half of the light

Did you know that turning off a typical personal computer when it’s not being used saves about $75 per year in electricity per computer?

A hot water faucet that leaks one drop per second can add up to 165 gallons a month. That's more than one person uses in two weeks.

With your assistance this will be an energy wise holiday break for everyone.

Energy Management Team
Facilities Management