

Tips of the Trade

How to save energy and beat out the competition

The following are a few of MANY tips on how to save electricity and heat in your house, look around on the web or ask your friends or the sustainability coordinator for other ideas. Get creative; saving energy isn't about freezing in the dark!

Electricity

- Plug your computer and other electronics into a powerstrip, turn off the powerstrip when not in use
- Unplug your iPod, cell phone, camera and other chargers when not in use
- Enable energy savings setting on your computer, turn it off when not in use
- Share electronic devices-refrigerator, microwave, television (unplug all but the main house unit)
- Switch all personal lights to CFLs (we will give you free CFLs in exchange for your old bulbs)
- Use natural lighting whenever possible, work in common areas and share light
- Clean the lint trap before using the dryer, dry your clothes on a drying rack
- Check the temperature of the refrigerator, it should be between 38-43°F, the freezer should be set between 0-5°F. They should both close properly

Heating

- Wash your clothes in cold water
- Take a shower in ten minutes or less (or only shower every other day), ten minutes of showering can use 70 gallons of water
- Close shades at night to keep out cold and open during the day to let in warmth
- Report leaky showers and faucets-put in a work order to get them fixed
- Make sure all doors and windows close properly-put in a work order if they don't

Vocabulary

- Phantom Load: even when electronic devices are turned off many are still drawing current. The best way to beat phantom load is to plug electronic devices into a powerstrip and make sure to turn the powerstrip off when you're not using it or unplug the devices all together.
 - Possible sources of phantom load: computer, laptop, television, VCR player, DVD player, video game system, microwave, coffee pot, cell phone charger, camera charger
 - Not sure what devices are using the most electricity, borrow a watt meter and find out
- CFL: compact fluorescent light bulbs (the curly ones) use 75 percent less energy and last about 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb

QUESTIONS? Need to trade for CFL bulbs? Want to borrow a watt meter?

I'm happy to help; answering questions over e-mail or visiting your house to brainstorm ideas...

Louise Gava

Sustainability Coordinator

lgava@stlawu.edu

229-5825