

Watt's Happening

Volume 5 Issue 4

UVA's Energy Conservation Newsletter

May 2003

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ENERGY STAR® — The Symbol for Energy Efficiency



What is Energy Efficiency?

Energy efficiency means obtaining the same services or output (such as lighting or cooling) for less energy input. Energy efficiency offers significant cost savings through an array of technologies and can reduce your energy bill by 20 to 30 percent. EPA's Energy Star Program makes saving energy easy...just look for the Energy Star label. Aside from the cost savings, here are a few more benefits: 1) greenhouse gases are reduced; 2) energy reliability is enhanced; and 3) dependence on foreign oil is decreased. Want to know more? Visit the Energy Star site at www.energystar.gov.

Have you come across an interesting way of saving energy? Please send it to me and I'll include it here.

Have you seen energy being wasted at the University? I want to hear about that, too.

Thanks. Tony

Did You Know...

The largest source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions is carbon dioxide, representing 80 percent of total emissions. The burning of oil, coal, and gas results in carbon emissions. Saving energy reduces the amount of carbon dioxide released through the burning of coal, oil and natural gas used to provide electricity, heating, and cooling for our homes and workplaces.

Hey, UVA - Turn off those lights!

Survey Results....not good

A lighting survey was conducted recently between the hours of 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. in 47 University of Virginia buildings. The survey found over 6,600 lighting fixtures on and over 235 computer monitors on during these hours when no one was in the buildings. This represents a significant monetary loss to the University, a loss that is completely preventable. Since 1995, the University has been recognized nationally as a leader in upgrading its building lighting systems, saving millions of kilowatt hours and preventing tons of air pollutants. Unfortunately, this most recent survey indicates that we have a long way to go in changing our personal habits of consuming electrical energy at work. Please turn off all lights when not needed, particularly at the end of the day. Please call or email me and I'll install a motion sensor or a timer that will do this automatically for you - FREE! Remember, unnecessary waste of electricity adds pollution to our environment.



Lighting and Motion Sensor Update

Since 1996, over 5000 motion sensors and timers have been installed throughout the University. Additionally, the University has upgraded over 88% of its buildings with energy efficient lighting systems. It is estimated that these two energy efficiency initiatives save the University \$863,000 annually in electrical costs.

News from Recycling

UVA's recycling percentage dropped from 39.90% for 2001 to 38.18 % for 2002. Recent surveys indicate that two things are occurring that have adversely affected our recycling efforts: 1) over 27% of our trash contains recyclable materials and 2) over 20% of our trash was not generated at the University but brought in from home. Let's all pull together and recycle; it saves money and helps the environment.

Please don't dispose of your home trash at work. It's illegal!

Water Conservation...a continued must

Although this fall and winter have seen above normal precipitation and snow fall, the UVA community should continue conserving water. Winter weather in our region has been quite dry and mild for the past five years. When this is combined with the fact that precipitation over all was down, temperatures were up, and summer time demand for water was steady, it's easier to understand why water became so scarce in 2002. For more information please visit: <http://www.virginia.edu/drought/>

Electronics Waste is Hazardous Waste

Do you have old computers, TVs, or other electronics?

If it's working, UVA Recycling will donate your electronics through **Chuck it for Charity! May 2-10**. Collection sites will be located inside every on-grounds housing area. Electronics, carpets, clothing, non-perishable food, and any working reusable item will be accepted and donated directly to lo-

cal Charlottesville non-profit organizations! If it's broken, you can recycle your electronics by bringing them to the **C'ville Ecycling Collection Day! May 24**, U-Hall South Parking Lot, 9 a.m.-3p.m. For more information on either program, please visit <http://recycle.virginia.edu> or call UVA Recycling at 982-5050.



Energy Tips

From Carole Lahmon: install a cistern (vain barrel) to collect the water runoff from your roof. The collected water can be used to water plants or flush commodes.

From John Chapman: for those with water conditioners, water conditioners can use a lot of water to backwash and are usually set on automatic to do so. If you can connect a hose to the unit, you can catch the water or have the unit reprogrammed to backwash less often.

Watt's Happening is published quarterly by
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Sleep!

TO:

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