

September 24, 2021

ENERGY & COMFORT @ WSU

WSU Tenant Engagement Program Newsletter for French Administration, Lighty Student Services, and Smith Center for Undergraduate Education building occupants.

Energy Champions are still needed!

We are looking more people in the French Administration, Lighty Student Services, and the Smith Center for Undergraduate Education buildings to represent their working teams or departments as “Energy Champions.” This role will help communicate valuable information, training opportunities, and reminders to their departmental teams that will help implement this tenant engagement campaign. This role will take no more than 30 minutes a month and would benefit our goals of reducing energy use on campus through this engagement campaign. Please email or contact Shelby Ruiz (shelby.ruiz@wsu.edu) for more information and to sign up.



ENERGY
EFFICIENCY



COMMUNITY
BUILDING



COMFORT &
WELL-BEING

Do you want a free smart power strip for your WSU workstation?

“Smart” or “advanced” power strips, wall meters, or controlled power surge protectors are technologies that can display, manage, and control electronic devices that draw plug loads/electricity from a building’s electrical system and would otherwise be overseen by the utility through a building electricity meter. Studies have shown that in small offices, plug load controllers such as smart power strips can reduce overall energy consumption by as much as 10%. These solutions allow facilities operations (or utility groups, etc.) to quantify the energy use consumed through plug loads and can help building users better understand the consumption of their everyday equipment, such as their computer, monitors, landline phone, or other desktop items they may have at their workstation.

We are looking for a diverse group of WSU employees to participate in this study who have varying computer setups, schedules, and equipment needs at their workstations. The procedure includes measuring active energy use from the electronics used at your desk and installing a timed smart power strip. Once installed (takes about 30 minutes), the device will stay at the workstation indefinitely, but no further participation is necessary. **If you would like to participate in this study or know someone who does in your department, please let Shelby Ruiz know via email or teams before September 30, 2021.**

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Energy Efficiency and Space Heaters:

Per WSU Fire Safety Policy 8.50 and WSU BPPM 80.85: All WSU Employees have a responsibility for energy conservation. Please remember to turn off any unnecessary lights, fans, coffee pots, and other small electrical appliances when not in use. Facilities Services manages remote systems to maintain average interior temperatures, lighting, equipment, and electrical systems in buildings. If you are experiencing temperatures or conditions outside of average temperature setpoints, please call Facilities Services at 509-335-9000.

The WSU Fire Marshal and Facilities Services discourage the use of portable space heaters in university interior locations for the following reasons:

- As sources of ignition, space heaters can create fire hazards.
- Space heaters are not as energy efficient as central heating.
- The electric cord creates a tripping hazard.

To conserve energy, the Facilities Services Energy team recommends that University personnel select portable space heaters that use 200 watts or less of electricity. For safety purposes, the space heaters must have on/off switches and be UL (Underwriters Laboratory) listed.

Reminders: Please avoid placing any space heating device near a thermostat, as it will alter the heating output of your space. Additional heat from a source such as a space heater can trick your thermostat, making it seem as if the space is too warm, triggering cooling outputs. If you must use a space heater, be sure it is under your desk, and far from any temperature sensors. Contact Facilities Services for information regarding purchasing approved space heaters.

Prohibited Heaters: Do not use the following types of space heaters in university buildings.

- Electric Radiant: An electric heater with electric elements that glow bright red or orange. This heater distributes energy as high radiant heat and uses 1500 watts or more of electricity.
- Fuel-Burning (of any kind): A heater that burns fossil fuels or alcohol.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for all Employees: Energy Efficiency and Comfort Training

In the fall of 2020, the Integrated Design + Construction Laboratory issued a survey to the entire WSU community about comfort, energy use, and learning styles. We discovered that many participants did not understand how or when to make energy conscious decisions to improve their comfort. Over 65% of participants indicated that an online training would help them maintain comfort and reduce energy use, so based on your feedback, we've developed an Energy and Comfort Training module, which is now hosted on the HRS learning platform, Skillsoft. We encourage you all to take this training, which should take you about 45 minutes.

Please CLICK HERE to take the training at your earliest convenience.

Note: During these unusual COVID times, please follow University and CDC guidelines for any additional building operation guidance. For buildings without central/forced air HVAC, recommendations for opening windows for instance, may vary depending upon local COVID prevalence, outdoor temperatures, and wildfire smoke. Please reach out to your building's Facilities contact with any specific questions.

Lastly, we want to hear from YOU! Please let us know of any comfort, energy waste, or departmental challenges you may have related to this energy and comfort campaign. Send us any comfort complaints or identified opportunities of saving energy in your office or department. We can help identify non-energy solutions or get you resources to mitigate the issues as they arise. ***Thank you for reading this month's newsletter!***