

November 14, 2022

ENERGY & COMFORT @ WSU

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

OUT OF OFFICE CHECKLIST

- Be sure to remove or secure any items on your desktop that might blow off your surfaces.

These items could cause a fire if they land on heaters or radiant panels.

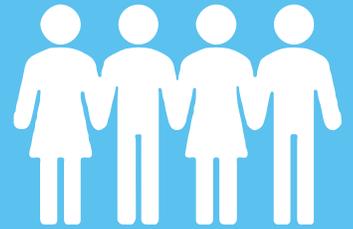
- Completely and safely power off and unplug all electronics. This includes:

Note: if you remote into your computer, you can unplug monitors and other connected equipment, and leave the computer on.

- Surge protectors (Smart Power Strips)
- Computer monitors
- Speakers
- Fans
- Space heaters**
- All printers/scanners
- Kettles
- Lamps and warmers
- Height adjustable desks
- Coffee machines
- Microwaves
- Other Kitchenette items

- Turn off all overhead lights in the office.
- At your desk, empty trash and remove any food items, things that smell, or could go bad in the time you will be away.
- Clean out refrigerators.
- Turn off lights and shut your blinds.

Happy Holidays from the ID+CL and Facilities Services!



IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Never leave space heaters plugged in while not in use. This poses a serious fire hazard when buildings are unoccupied during the break.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

COMMUNITY BUILDING

COMFORT & WELL-BEING

Energy Consumption in the Built Environment:

The UN Environment Programme, in conjunction with the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, recently released the 2021 Global Status Report. This document outlined buildings and constructions' share of global energy consumption and emissions. This year's edition has found that "in 2020, the sector accounted for 36% of global final energy consumption and 37% of energy related CO2 emissions". Commercial buildings make up a large portion of that impact, emphasizing the need for us to reduce our energy use on campus. This can be done through the use of our **Smart Power Strips** and staying aware of your energy consumption throughout the day. Extensive information about this research can be found here: [2021 global status report buildings and construction](#), As well as research from our lab at our [website](#).



Snow is Upon Us:

Fall is coming to a close and winter is making it's way in. As we make our way through the change of seasons, temperatures will be fluctuating throughout the day and melting snow may alter the humidity in your space. Here are a few ways to make this transition more comfortable and efficient:

- **Dress in layers!** Temperatures are cooling around campus so dressing warm is appropriate. But, once you step inside, it will be boiling! As you begin to lower your metabolic rate, you might get cold again. Dressing in layers can help you stay comfortable in all environments without using external heating and cooling. Hats are especially helpful! About 10% of our body heat is lost through an uncovered head, according to British Medical Journal's (BMJ) 2008 study with adults.
- **Be mindful of your heater!** Although a space heater can be very nice, it is important to be aware of your usage. Make sure to use a compliant device, only turn it on when your space is uncomfortable, and target areas like hands, feet, and the space under your desk for maximum efficiency.
- Make sure to **unplug** any space heaters and fans before leaving your office every day!

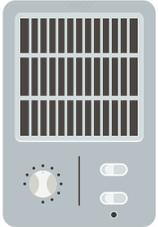
If you are experiencing temperatures or conditions outside of average temperature set points, please call Facilities Services at 509-335-9000.

Weather Impacts:

High winds, freezing rain, and snow events may cause issues like power outages and road closures. Please prepare yourself, your vehicles, and your homes for the winter months. For more information on Pullman's winter road conditions, visit the website [here](#).

HEATING SEASON!

Space Heaters; The Good, the Bad, the Ugly

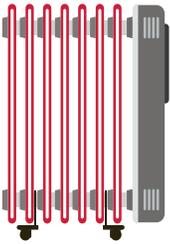


THE GOOD:

These include heaters with:

- Use of 200 watts of electricity or less
- A tip over safety feature and on/off switches
- Must be UL (Underwriters Laboratory) Listed

A good heater will improve your comfort without impacting the building's climate or putting anyone in harms way. To best heat the intended target, place your heater below your desk.



THE BAD:

These include:

- Any heater without the "good" requirements
- Radiant type heaters that glow red or orange and use up to 1500W.

A bad heater will use more energy to produce a less direct source of heat that may be registered by the building before you, leaving you and the space colder than before you turned it on.



THE UGLY:

In the worst cases, space heaters can provide a serious fire danger. In Pullman, in 2018, a devastating fire was started by a space heater. No one was hurt but the damage could have been avoided. Please be cautious and aware while using your space heater.

Remember: Never leave your space heater plugged in unattended, keep paper and other combustibles away from your heater and be wary of any moving air that could blow papers that direction, and have your space heater plugged into a surge protector. (Or one of our Smart Power Strips!)

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 comply with "The Good" heater.

Recommended Options for Space Heaters: [Amazon Basic](#) and [Honeywell Heatbud](#)

PREP YOUR SMART STRIP FOR BREAK!

When your office is unoccupied for an extended period of time, it is best to avoid unnecessary devices turning on based on the timer. However, IT may perform updates throughout the break, requiring we leave computers on. This means that your SPS must be switched from “AUTO ON” to “**MANUAL OFF**”. Follow these steps to do so.

1. Press and hold “MANUAL” for 4-5 seconds until the label on the screen switches from “AUTO” to “MAN”.
2. If your screen displays “ON” next to “MAN” you will need to briefly press the “MANUAL” button again to switch to “OFF”

Following these steps will allow devices on the “always on” side to stay on, and the “switched” side to stay off until the process is reversed.

Note: Once you have returned to the office full time, you can revert to the programmed SPS by following the exact same steps until your screen displays “AUTO ON”

If you would like to learn more about our smart strip program please visit our website: <https://idcl.wsu.edu/>

STILL MORE SMART POWER STRIPS TO INSTALL THIS ACADEMIC YEAR:

As we move through this most recent milestone we look forward to doubling our quota and expanding our study! This means that **we need a Smart Power Strip in every office of every department of French Administration, Lighty Student Services, the Smith CUE, Todd Hall (and Addition) and Johnson Tower!** We are also pushing to install strips in kitchenettes and other shared workspaces with shared electronic devices. If you already have a strip installed, spread the word! Otherwise, **reach out to Zachary Colligan at zach.colligan@wsu.edu to learn more** about our study and to participate in making campus more efficient.

