

February 9, 2022

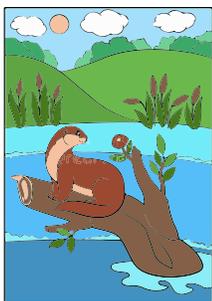
# ENERGY & COMFORT @ WSU

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

## CLIMATE CHANGE IS UN-BEAR-ABLE!

In celebration of upcoming World Wildlife Day on March 3rd, we ask you to be especially conscientious of your energy use. The operation and maintenance of commercial buildings is one of the leading causes of carbon emissions, beating both the industrial and transportation sectors. All WSU employees have a responsibility for energy conservation; It's important to turn off any unnecessary lights, turn off and unplug fans, coffee pots, and other small electric appliances when not in use, and only use electric space heaters authorized by WSU Facilities Services and the Department of Fire Safety Compliance.

Note: Portable electric space heaters that consume inordinate amounts of electrical energy, may overload electrical systems, and are a serious fire hazard. Please review SPPM 8.50 for more information



Every year the polar icecaps melt more and more diminishing the habitats of many arctic animals. Closer to home, the Paradise Creek supports many wildlife creatures that are vital to everyday life in Pullman; the bees that pollinate our flowers, the birds that serenade us in the morning, and the plant life that we love to see in the Spring!



### WIN A REPLACEMENT SPACE HEATER IN A RAFFLE!

Please send Shelby Ruiz ([shelby.ruiz@wsu.edu](mailto:shelby.ruiz@wsu.edu)) an email with your full name, email address, and two pictures of your current space heater. One of the unit overall (in the location where it is currently being used) and another of the UL/product listing sticker (typically on the bottom or back of the device). You will be entered to win one of five compliant space heaters for your WSU office, which will be given to you at the end of the month!

### IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Never leave space or under desk heaters plugged in while not in use. This equipment poses a serious fire hazard when unattended.

# WHAT'S THE TRICK TO REDUCING MY CARBON FOOTPRINT?

It's not a trick, just be 'smart' about your use of electricity: "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. The first step to addressing an issue is identification. You can get a smart strip (free of charge) for your WSU office: please email Shelby Ruiz (shelby.ruiz@wsu.edu) to sign up for a quick, 20 minute, installation. Metering is an important step to reducing the carbon footprint of a building and ultimately preserving the habitats of beautiful wildlife.

## WHATS COMING UP?

### WORLD WILDLIFE DAY!

(March 3rd, 2022)

Celebrate the day by wearing a sweater at your desk and cut back on heating to lower the carbon footprint of your department. Save the bears!

### SOLAR APPRECIATION DAY!

(March 11th, 2022)

Celebrate the day by turning off your electric lights when not in use to take advantage of the natural light. Open your blinds and let the sun illuminate your workspace.

### SPRING EQUINOX!

(March 20th, 2022)

Celebrate the change of the seasons by storing away your space heater and changing your outfit to suit the warmer indoor and outdoor temperatures.

## WINTER WEATHER COMFORT AND ENERGY TIPS:

### Snow and Ice:

- Using your door mats and brushing off snow/rain as much as possible will help reduce accumulated moisture in your buildings and windows. If you notice condensation in areas where it has not been before or in excess, contact your facility manager!

### Too Little Moisture:

- A lack of humidity in the air can cause physical discomfort in building occupants. Humidity levels below 25% can cause dry throats and noses, sinus congestion, and dry skin. Increasing indoor humidity levels by adding steam or humidifiers can be a temporary fix, as can increasing your daily water intake, using nasal sprays, and being conscious about moisturizers.

### Clothing in the Winter:

- An easy way to manage your thermal comfort in the winter is maintaining clothing options in your office or workspace to manage your temperature. While outside activity and heavy coats can quickly increase your warmth, a light sweater that is less bulky kept in your office is an electricity-free solution to being too chilly in the winter. Having options of dry and warm clothing through the year to change into is a great way to manage your comfort and use less energy!

### Winter Sun Angles:

- Bright direct light, reflections from snow, and lower solar angles in the winter can create glare or too much light to be comfortable while working in your building. Utilizing your blinds and physical barriers such as plants or cubicle dividers is a solution that can improve your comfort and increase your work productivity!