

June 23, 2022

ENERGY & COMFORT @ WSU

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

WHY IS IT SO COLD INDOORS?

Did you know that buildings on WSU's campus provide cold air differently than conventional buildings? Rather than each individual building cooling water to be used in the process of creating chilled air, campus has designated cooling facilities that can provide cold water to many buildings across a sector. This method is ultimately more efficient as it is able to devote time, material, and energy to cooling large bodies of water rather than many systems cooling smaller amounts.

For fulltime staff and faculty this means that large swathes of campus are shifting from heating to cooling as we progress into the Summer. As you have noticed that shift has already begun. If you find yourself to be too cold during this transition, we ask that you communicate your discomfort as quickly as possible! Using personal heaters during the summer to combat an overcooled environment is a wasteful misuse of energy.

WHAT ARE TEMPERATURE SETPOINTS?

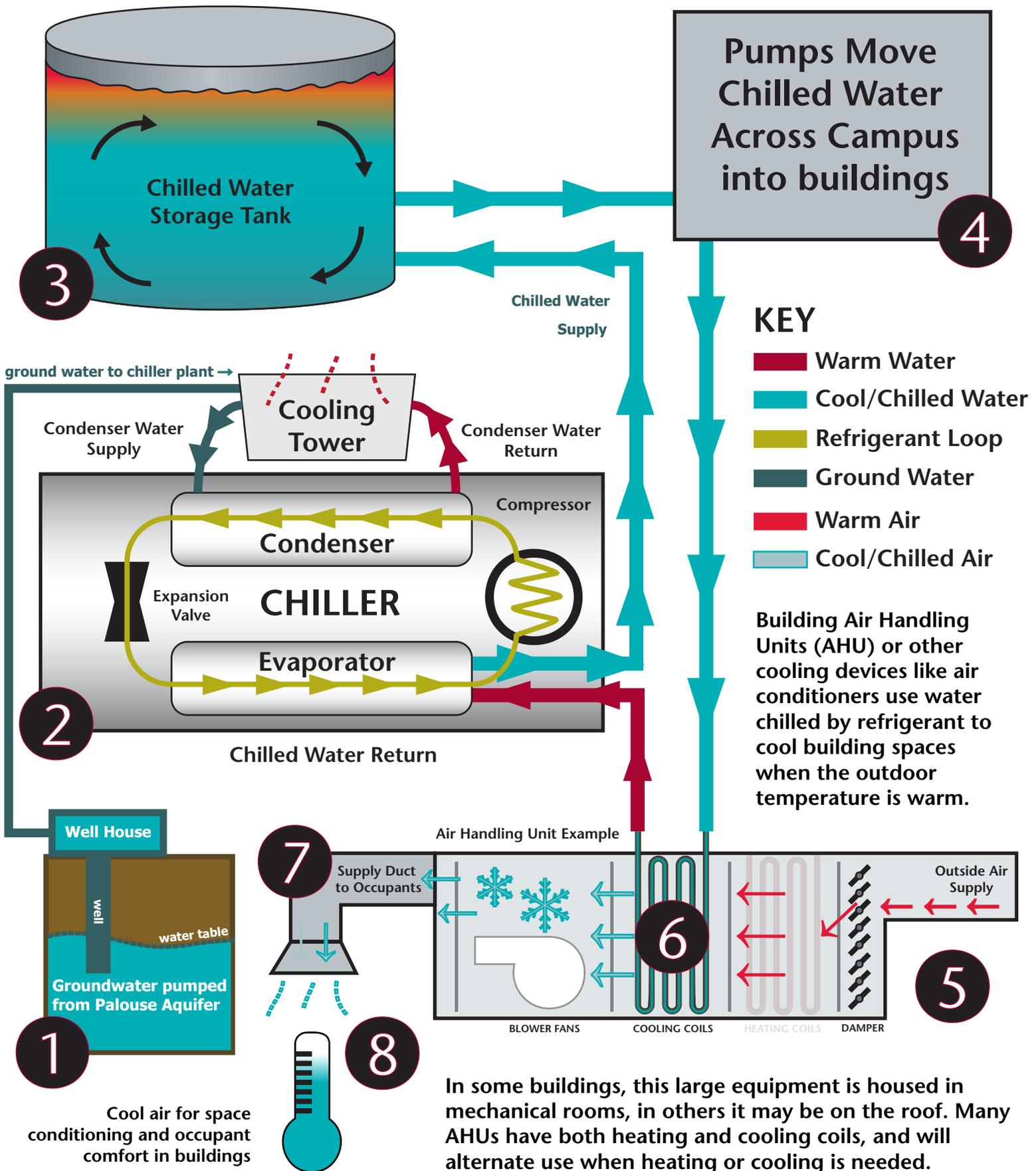
The thermostat in your office or suite measures the ambient temperature of a space and determines if it is below or above the range of acceptable temperatures. This range of "acceptable" temperatures is predetermined based on typical ranges of comfort in buildings and energy efficiency performance. This summer, buildings on the WSU Pullman campus are adhering to a 68-to-76-degree Fahrenheit range of comfort. If you notice your thermostat is reading outside of this range, or you and your colleagues are abnormally uncomfortable in your office, please notify Facilities Services at 509-335-9000. These reports are logged and can help determine HVAC system issues and can aid in resolving common comfort complaints. Another solution is to adapt your clothing choice to the shifting indoor climates.

TURN YOUR OFFICE INTO "AWAY MODE" DURING AN ANNUAL LEAVE

During your annual leave this summer, please remember to do the following:

- Remove any food items, things that smell, or could go bad in the time you will be away.
- Turn off all overhead lights and shut your blinds (if applicable).
- Unplug and turn off any desktop electronics that will not need to be remotely accessed in your time away to reduce plug loads. This includes monitors, lamps, kitchen equipment, chargers, and other desktop electronics like speakers, tablets, etc.
- If you have a surge protector or Smart Power Strip, please use the switch on the side to safely cut power to any devices that are unneeded during your time away from your office.
- Be sure to remove or secure any "fly-away" items on your desktop that might blow off your surfaces if increased airflow happens while you are away.

HOW DOES CHILLED WATER COOL BUILDINGS @ WSU?



OUR SPRING SEMESTER UPDATE!

The team at the Integrated Design and Construction Lab (ID+CL) is moving on to the second phase of our Smart Power Strip (SPS) research study! This means we are maintaining the departments we've connected with the past two semesters within French Administration, Lighty Student Services and the Smith CUE, while also expanding to new departments within Johnson Tower, Todd Hall, and the Todd Addition! This expansion is only possible because of the support we've received from all of you so far and we really appreciate your help in making campus more sustainable: one office at a time.

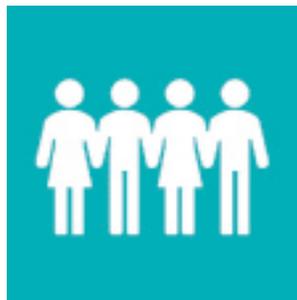
During the Spring Semester the Integrated Design and Construction Laboratory facilitated two in-person activities to celebrate the Spring Equinox, in March, and Earth Day, in April. In March, we passed around wildflower seeds while sharing information on the transition from winter to spring weather and the dangers of excess moisture, space heaters, and the overcast sun. In April, we distributed baby tomatoes and talked about the value of getting outside, getting active, and eating local produce as the weather improves and we continue to come out of winter hibernation.



With that said, we are striving to make more installations for our SPS research study in all of the aforementioned buildings as we chase new milestones. If you're interested in learning more about the study and supporting our efforts, please reach out to **Zachary Colligan** at Zach.Colligan@wsu.edu or **Shelby Ruiz** at Shelby.Ruiz@wsu.edu.

HOW CAN WE BETTER SUPPORT YOU THIS COMING ACADEMIC YEAR?

The ID+CL team has pushed for greater interaction with the departments and our Energy Champions across our target buildings including newsletters, posters, raffles, and a couple in-person activities; however, we want to hear from you: what has been the most successful and how can we improve both our digital and in-person engagement to support fulltime staff on campus? We encourage you to send your feedback to **Zachary Colligan** at Zach.Colligan@wsu.edu, as we enter the planning stage for the next academic year!



ALLERGY SEASON + AIR QUALITY

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a tool used to assess the safety of the air based on airborne particulates. According to AirNow.gov, the higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. Typically, with higher temperatures comes a higher AQI value, in fact, the value fluctuates throughout the day as the temperature drops in the evenings. When particle levels are high outdoors, they can be high indoors, as well, which is why air filtration is so important. At home, you should be routinely changing your air filter; however, during the spring and summer with increased particles due to the dry weather, increased pollen, and other seasonal challenges, it would be advisable to invest in higher quality filtration that sports a MERV rating of 13 or higher or a HEPA filter if your home's HVAC system is compatible.

In the office, you may not be able to control the frequency of the filter's change, but you have an obligation to advocate for your own comfort and wellbeing if you feel it is compromised during the dry season to come. When assessing the Indoor air quality (IAQ) of your space be sure to note any open windows, which can be a great strategy for taking advantage of an outdoor breeze but can also inadvertently let outdoor pollutants into your space. Deeper into July and as we enter August, wildfires and haze will once again impact our AQI value, as it did last year. During this time plan your outdoor activities accordingly and have your mask on-hand.

As we continue to enjoy the outdoors, we ask you to be cognizant of the changing temperatures and the increased sunshine. Sunscreen during the day and bug repellent during the evenings can keep you healthy and happy throughout the summer but keep an eye out for those around you so as to avoid spraying them too!

A BIG 'THANK YOU' FROM OUR TEAM TO YOURS!

BIG THANKS TO:

Loretta Drago and **Ellen Baldwin** in the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs for being so supportive of our study!

BIG THANKS TO:

Anna Schilter for your enthusiasm to spread the word about our Smart Strip study and the work we do around campus!

BIG THANKS TO:

The Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for taking the time to help us install strips throughout the department!

STILL MORE SMART POWER STRIPS TO INSTALL IN THE COMING 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, and the Smith CUE!** 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.