January 24, 2022

ENERGY & COMFORT @ WSU

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

SPACE HEATER ENFORCEMENT

In light of recent events and the serious fire danger that old, dusty, and non-compliant space heaters pose in buildings, WSU and the Energy and Comfort Campaign team will be strictly enforcing the space heater SPPM 8.50 requirements moving forward.

Please talk to your departmental energy champion for viable and compliant replacements. You often can save if ordering more than 5 from an Amazon business account.

Here are a few quick tips to ensure your space heater is fire safe:

- Portable space heaters should use about 200 watts or less of electricity.
- Space heaters must have the tip over on/off switch.
- Space heaters need to be UL listed.
- Heaters need to be plugged into an electrical receptacle or power strip (surge protector) – Do not use with basic extension cords and avoid tripping hazards.
- Keep combustible materials like paper, wood, cardboard and packing materials away from your space heaters. Be aware of any papers that could be moved around your office by blowing air.
- Make sure to turn off heaters at least 15 minutes before you leave work to ensure they have cooled down. Unplugging them entirely is another option to stay safe.
- Never leave a heater unattended. (This means NOT leaving it on over lunch breaks, over weekends, or while working remotely).
- An electric radiant type of heater with the elements that glow bright red or orange are not allowed due to the extreme fire danger.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact WSU Fire & Safety Compliance Officer Darren Jones by phone at 509-335-4310 or by email at dmjones@wsu.edu.

To make your heater warmth last, close the door to your office and keep your heater as close to your feet as is comfortable.

WIN A REPLACEMENT SPACE HEATER IN A RAFFLE!

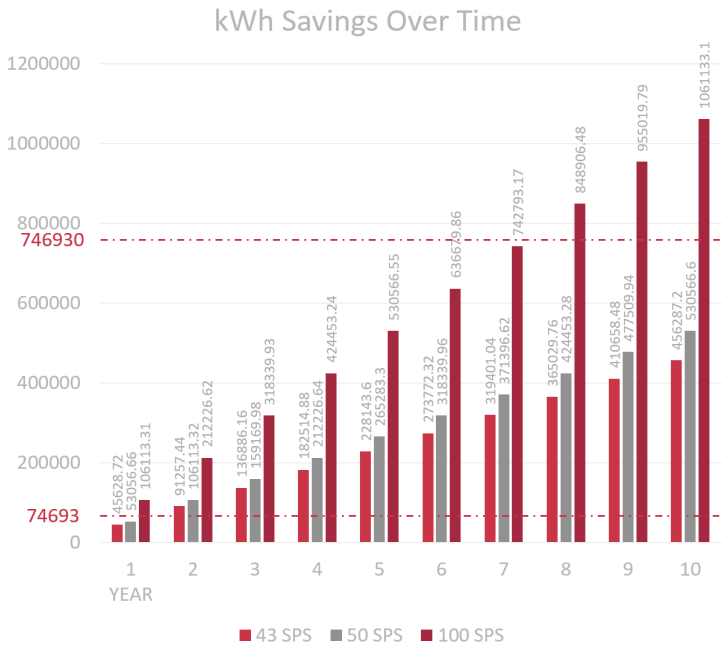
Please send Shelby Ruiz (shelby.ruiz@wsu.edu) an email with your full name, email address, and two pictures of your current space heater. One of the unit overall (in the location where it is currently being used) and another of the UL/product listing sticker (typically on the bottom or back of the device).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

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

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

This project is sponsored by Facilities Services and delivered by the Integrated Design + Construction Lab

PRELIMINARY SMART STRIPS STUDY FINDINGS



SPS refers to "Smart Power Strips." The Y axis shows kilowatt hours (kWh) and the two red dashed lines are our benchmarks (calculated as 1.5% of overall combined building energy use in targeted buildings) for a ten-year (top: 746,930 kWh) and one-year (bottom: 74,693 kWh) savings goals. As the chart shows, if we install 100 smart strips total, we will have surpassed our goal in the first year significantly. **Lets get those last 57 installed!**

With grant funding from Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), 50 Smart Power Strips (SPS) were purchased and installed in offices and workstations in select buildings on the WSU-Pullman campus. Through the SPS installation process, the data for each device plugged into the strip was metered, logged, and analyzed to determine total energy consumption in kilowatt hours (kWh) and utility cost per device. Device usage calculations were used to project savings in kWh energy use and utility costs over time (1-10 years) and based on the number of installed SPS devices (Quantity 43, 50, 100).

The goal metrics, established by WSU Facilities Services, were to save an estimated 74,693 kWh, or $5,766 in utility costs, annually. Preliminary study results suggest that through the implementation of 100 smart strips those metrics could be exceeded by 42%. By eliminating the energy consumption of electronic devices during non-business hours, the university has the potential for a significant savings in energy use and utility costs across campus facilities.

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!

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