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Residential Life Continues Energy Saving Efforts in Campus Housing

As part of the LSU Department of Residential Life's facility program, measures are ongoing to make buildings more energy efficient, saving resources and money. The exciting changes continue to improve the living-learning experiences for students who live on campus and provide Residential Life's pillar in support of the LSU Flagship Agenda, Objective 4, "Improve quality of campus life."

For more than nine years Residential Life has consciously made facility improvements to increase energy efficiency in on-campus housing. During summer 2008, energy conservation improvements to Herget Hall included replacing fluorescent light bulbs and forty-year-old lighting fixtures with new energy-saving digital lighting fixtures and with T12 bulbs. Combined with motion sensors in ten additional residence halls, the new lighting systems are anticipated to reduce energy consumption by 15 percent. Improvements in Blake and Broussard Halls include replacing older windows and dated air conditioning, heating, and domestic hot water systems.

In addition to facility improvements in existing buildings, new construction projects are also being built with utility consumption in mind. All light and mechanical systems in new construction are digital and more energy efficient. Compared with older buildings, the newly constructed Residential College Complex (RCC) is saving energy and money while providing new and more modern space for students to live on campus. Compared with North Graham Hall which was built in 1967 with 327 beds, the new 428-bed RCC uses 30 percent less chilled water. This 30 percent reduction in chilled water translates to an estimated savings of \$29,600 a year. Even greater savings are seen in electricity. Facility Services reported the RCC used approximately 172,700 kilowatt-hours of electricity over six months of the 2008-09 academic year. Compared with North Graham Hall, the RCC used approximately 65 percent less electricity, which translates into an estimated savings of \$64,200 a year.

As utility expenditures account for 15.7 percent of the Department's annual budget, facility improvements made to increase energy efficiency positively impact the budget and students. Money saved through more efficient utility practices helps keep rent rates low for students, and makes more building improvements possible. Reinvesting savings into on-campus facilities and student rent rates is a primary focus of saving money through energy saving improvements.

The Department of Residential Life continues to be good stewards of resources and students' rent money, through choosing to make capital improvements that benefit all. With more than 50 percent of the single student housing on campus being renovated or new construction in the last ten years, Residential Life is committed to completing its plan to modernize its remaining housing facilities and make them even more energy efficient.