

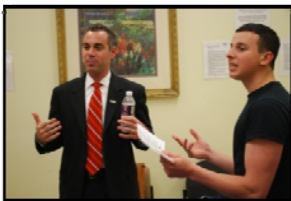
March 27, 2009

Campus Residents “UNPLUG” for Energy Conservation

Students living in on-campus residence halls and apartments are participating in a month-long Energy Conservation Competition to reduce energy consumption by making small adjustments in their behavior. Students’ efforts compliment Residential Life’s commitment to completing its 12-year investment to modernize its housing facilities and make them even more energy efficient.

The student initiated “UNPLUG” Energy Conservation Competition builds on the foundation of energy efficiency laid by Residential Life’s Facilities Improvements Program. Weekly meter readings by students from the Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO) and Freshmen Leadership Council provide data from the 19 buildings involved in the “UNPLUG” Competition. The first week of the competition on-campus residents reduced their energy consumption by an average 11 percent. The second week, energy consumption was reduced by 16 percent compared to the same time frame one year ago. Leading the way are Herget Hall, the Horseshoe Community and the East Campus Apartments.

For more than nine years Residential Life has consciously made facility improvements to increase energy efficiency in on-campus housing. New lighting systems in 11 halls, new hot water heaters in four halls, and window replacements are anticipated to reduce energy consumption by 15 percent this year. The newly constructed Residential College Complex (RCC) is also saving energy and money while providing new and more modern space for students to live on campus. The complex uses approximately 30 percent less chilled water and 65 percent less electricity over six months than previous housing options.



At the kick-off events on March 4 in the 459 Commons, Highland Dining Hall and ECA and WCA activity centers, students pledged to participate and were entered into a drawing for Paw Points provided by LSU Dining. The five winners were Evan Sheppard of Herget Hall, Jerod Dunbar of East Laville Hall, Shae Thomas of Evangeline Hall, Rikki Judice of Miller Hall, and Nabil Thalji of the East Campus Apartments.

At the conclusion of the competition, the community with the greatest difference in energy use from March 2008 to March 2009 will be the winner, and all residents of the winning community will receive flash drives donated by the Kodak Corporation. The final results will be announced at LSU’s Earth Day on April 24.

Small adjustments in daily routines will greatly impact overall energy consumption in campus halls and apartments. Students are asked to turn off unnecessary lights, unplug phone chargers when not in use, take the stairs rather than the elevator, and take shorter showers to conserve energy. Through motivating and educating students on how small adjustments in their daily routines can positively

impact the world around them, the organizations involved in this competition seek to help the LSU community practice energy efficiency in everyday living.

As utility expenditures account for 15.7 percent of the Department's annual budget, facility improvements made to increase energy efficiency coupled with students' awareness of their own energy consumption positively impact the budget and the on-campus community. Money saved through more efficient utility practices helps keep rent rates low for students, and makes more building improvements possible.

For current updates on the student energy competition, visit www.lsu.edu/housing and click on the Unplug button.

