Dorm Energy Audit

This audit lists many opportunities for improving the sustainability of your dorm. These are issues you can raise at Hall Council, during the CFL Exchange, or when other opportunities arise. On the back of this page is a sample audit form you can use to record problems you see around your dorm.

ELECTRICAL
1. Look for incandescent lamps, exchange with CFLs. Ask if occupants turn off lights when leaving the room.
2. Set computers to efficient power settings.
3. Assess number of refrigerators in the room, ask if all are necessary or if all but one can be turned off unless in use and if refrigerators are Energy Star.
4. If there are multiple TV’s or other electronic devices, ask if all are necessary or if all but one can be unplugged. Explain benefits of power strips.

HEATING/COOLING
1. Does the window shut completely and latch?
2. Is the plastic cover on the thermostat missing or loose?
3. Has the lever on the side of the thermostat been tampered with (obstructed, taped, etc.)?
4. Is there furniture pushed up within 3 inches of the heater?
5. Is there persistent banging in the steam pipes?*
6. Is there persistent hissing from either your radiator or thermostat?*
7. Is the thermostat possibly out of calibration? Is the heat still on full blast even if it is turned all the way down?*

PLUMBING/WATER
1. Are there any leaky faucets in the room?*
2. Are there any problems with plumbing in common bathrooms (i.e. running toilets, leaking faucets, etc.)?*

OTHER
1. Do rooms have recycling bins and do residents know what to recycle? For more recycling bins, email recycling@nd.edu.
2. Any other energy issues in the dorm that warrant further investigation? Email sustainability@nd.edu with details.

HOW DO HEATERS WORK?
- Temperatures are automatically set back 6 degrees during “unoccupied” times in order to save energy. If you want heat during these unoccupied times (9:30 am – 5:30 pm), most dorms have levers on the side of the thermostat which you can use to manually turn on the heat. Gently moving the lever up and let it fall but don’t try to prop it up.
- Thermostats are sensitive and break easily when tampered with. Submit a work order rather than trying to solve the problem by yourself.

*A Rector or Assistant Rector can submit a work order to have these items addressed.