

How Individuals Can Reduce Energy Consumption at AU

Many of the same rules used for reducing energy consumption at home also apply to your work environment.

- 1) **Lights:** Turn off lights when exiting a room. In public buildings, many people assume there is someone that will come around behind them to perform this task.
- 2) **Plug Loads:** Be conscious of all of the items that you have turned on and plugged in at your work space. Turn off items such as printers and copiers if they are not needed regularly. Unplug items such as microwaves, coffee makers, or any other appliances that have lights or digital displays. Unplugging these items when they are not needed does help. A good practice is to do this before you head home for the evening or leave for the weekend.
- 3) **Computers:** Shut them down before you leave work. There used to be a time that it was better for your computer to be left on all the time. Current computers do not require this. Another good practice is to make sure that your computer will go to sleep mode if it hasn't been used for a while. This helps during the day when you may be pulled away from your computer.
- 4) **Dressing to the environment:** In the times of the year where it may be cold or hot in the building where you work, dress appropriately. Avoid space heaters in the winter.
- 5) **Air Conditioning:** Do not leave doors or windows open. Conditioned air is allowed to escape and the mechanical systems have to work to replace it.
- 6) **Multiple Thermostats:** If you are in a space with multiple thermostats, be sure to set them to where they are not fighting each other.

Note:

AU's buildings that are connected to the central heating and cooling systems perform differently than what you are used to at your house. 40°F chilled water is pumped to the buildings. Each air handler and fan coil unit receives this water to cool and dehumidify the air. The air is then heated to its discharge air set point. Home systems are either heating or cooling. Our systems do some of both year round.