# **Energy Ambassadors Teach Conservation**

he Student Energy Ambassador program, which just concluded its fourth year, provides U students with peer-to-peer energy and water audits.

The program is co-funded by Rocky Mountain Power, Questar Gas, and the Sustainability Office. It teaches college-age students about electricity and water conservation in their own home. By focusing on college students, the program targets two groups traditionally missed by professional audit services: 1) 18-25 year olds; 2) Renters. This year's cohort of Energy Ambassadors performed 75 inhome audits and five presentations, directly educating 90 students and 353 indirectly (through roommates in each home and students attending presentations).



#### successes

- **Partnerships:** Rocky Mountain Power and Questar Gas have made this program possible through both funding and training support.
- **Hours of education:** Between audits and presentations, the Energy Ambassador team provided 100 hours of direct energy education to students.
- **LEDs:** This year's program included LEDs, which are more efficient than CFLs.

#### setbacks

- **Member loss:** For the second time in its four-year history, a team member quit mid-year. This increased the workload for the remaining members, which delays audits and overall completion of requirements.
- Scheduling difficulties: This year's cohort, like past cohorts, struggled with scheduling because student participants regularly cancel appointments.

### suggestions

• Pursue new education program:
The Sustainability Office will be short staffed in September and October 2016. These months are the most time-intensive for managing the Energy Ambassador program because of training needs. It is recommended that the program be suspended this year. The office should use this school year to develop an alternative energy- and water-conservation program to teach students about resource conservation.

## Four-Year Review: Year-to-Year Comparison

INDICATOR	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-16
Audits completed/required	91/100	117/125	75/75	75/75
Presentations completed	_	_	6	5
Avg. Age of Participant	22.5	24	24	21.4
Smart Power Strip Annual Savings	7,470 kWh	10,350 kWh	6,120 kWh	6,570 kWh
CFL Total Annual Savings	10,114 kWh	16,589 kWh	9,597.6 kWh	11,271kWh¹
LED Total Annual Savings	_	_	_	4,125 kWh
High-Efficiency Showerhead Savings per Device Installed	.78 GPM	.7 GPM	.71GPM	1.1GPM
Showerheads Installed	41	61	41	29
Faucet Aerators Savings per Device Installed	.835 GPM	1.2 GPM	.82GPM	.63GPM
Aerators Installed	125	93	37	111

Despite providing fewer bulbs, the total kWh savings are higher in the 2015-16 year than two of the previous years. This is because the savings were calculated with a new metric to be more in line with the metric for LED savings, both of which were provided by the federal government's ENERGY STAR light bulb calculator, downloadable at https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/.../light\_bulb\_calculator.xlsx.