

IU Physical Plant Utilities-Utility Information Group

To: Whom to it may concern
CC: William M Brown
From: Lee A Walters
Date: 12/15/2010
Re: IUOS Bloomington Campus Energy Challenge

My name is Lee Walters and I am the Manager of the Utility Information Group for Physical Plant Utilities on the Bloomington campus. We are responsible for the mapping, locating, metering and documentation of all utility systems on the Bloomington campus.

I have been involved with the Energy Challenge since its inception in 2008. What began as a Masters project for a student in Informatics studying Human-Computer Interaction has become a full-scale Utility Conservation Project using the resources of both Physical Plant Utilities and IUOS student interns.

The project began as an opportunity to study water and electric use in the dormitories and have the students compete to reduce their energy and water consumption against a baseline of their dorms' average consumption over the past three years. The results were dramatic and above and beyond what the Utilities Department expected to see. In four weeks, 10 dormitories saved an estimated \$26,000 in energy and water costs.

We recently completed our fourth Energy Challenge after moving the competition to the Fall semester. This was done to give us an opportunity to study the effects on utility savings once the competition is over. The competition this time included residence halls, fraternities and sororities, and academic and administrative buildings. We are taking weekly readings at a select group of buildings from the Challenge to monitor long-term changes in behavior and utility usage.

What began as an effort to help a graduate student with his project has evolved into a twice-yearly competition involving thousands of students, faculty and staff. Over \$199,000 in avoided utility costs, 2 million KW of electricity and 6 million gallons of water have been saved since the inception of the Energy Challenge.

Physical Plant Utilities and the Utility Information group are proud to be a part of this effort. It has and continues to be a learning experience for all of us as well as for our IUOS interns. We look forward to the Energy Challenge becoming bigger and better as new technology and more meters are introduced on the IUB campus.