

UW – River Falls Energy Awareness and Conservation Statement to Faculty and Staff

In 2006, UWRF was one of the four Wisconsin campuses to take on the challenge of going “off the grid” by 2012. Going “off the grid” means that UWRF seeks to become carbon neutral and 100% energy independent through the use of local-renewable forms of energy. This process is currently being implemented through various initiatives, such as a wind power feasibility study, trial biomass burns in the heating plant, and the purchase of green energy blocks amounting to 37% of UWRF’s total energy consumption. By working together toward our goal, UWRF will become a prime example of what can be achieved through conscious and responsible action.

However, simply changing the methods of energy creation is not enough. WE as a campus community and engaged citizenry must take action to reduce the amount of energy needed to fuel our lives; this is where energy awareness and conservation are absolutely critical. There are many simple ways that we can reduce our demand for energy.

- *Embrace natural light.* When adequate sunlight is present in a room leave the ceiling lights off.
- *Turn off lights* when you are the last person to leave a room (e.g., laboratories, classrooms, offices, computer labs, etc...).
- *Use task lights* rather than overhead lights when possible.
- *Power down and close Lab Fume Hoods and other equipment* when not in use.
- *Eliminate personal coffee pots, refrigerators, and microwaves.* Departments often have small appliances in public areas.
- *Eliminate space heaters* in offices. Contact Facilities Management if offices are cold.
- *Power Strips.* Plugging in your electronic devices into easy access power strips allows for complete powering down of devices and stops ghost power loads.
- *Turn off computers* in offices and laboratories when not in use, or at least activate the automatic sleep mode.

If you have additional ideas or questions, please contact Facilities Management at 425-3820.