

UW – River Falls Energy Awareness and Conservation Statement to Students

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., rooms, classrooms, offices, computer labs, etc...).
- *Turn off computers* when not in use, or at least activate the automatic sleep mode.
- *Refrigerators.* Keep the rear coils clean and give the unit breathing room.
- *Turn off the heater* when rooms are too hot; do not open the windows. Instructions for operating your heater can be found for each Residence Hall by going to <http://sa.uwrf.edu/sa/res-life/res-halls>, choosing your hall and clicking the “Learn about heating . . .” link.
- *Power Strips.* Plugging in your electronic devices into easy access power strips allows you to completely power down devices when not in use.
- *Walk or bike* within town instead of driving. River Falls is a cozy place and these are inexpensive, healthy activities.
- *Wash clothes in cold water and in full loads.* This saves on energy otherwise spent on heating water and washing multiple loads.

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