**Energy Conservation Incentive Program (ECIP):**

# ECIP Championship Challenge

TO: Facility and Communications staff

FROM: F&S Associate Director for Sustainability, Morgan White

RE: Energy Conservation Incentive Program – Championship Challenge

DATE: September 1, 2020

Dear Campus Facilities Liaisons and Campus Communicators,

I am sure you are all aware of the [Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP)](https://sustainability.illinois.edu/campus-sustainability/icap/), which is the strategic plan for meeting our Climate Leadership Commitments. This fall, [the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE)](https://sustainability.illinois.edu/) is expected to release an updated [iCAP 2020](https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project/icap-2020-illinois-climate-action-plan) which incorporates input and feedback from hundreds of campus stakeholders to identify the priority objectives to include in this five-year update.

You also are likely aware of the [Energy Conservation Incentive Program (ECIP)](https://fs.illinois.edu/services/utilities-energy/energy-conservation/ecip) which was launched by [Facilities & Services (F&S)](https://fs.illinois.edu/services/utilities-energy/energy-conservation/ecip) in FY13, with support from the Office of the Provost. Until FY19, ECIP winners received a plaque and financial awards that distributed some of the centrally managed campus utility funds. With the advent of [Integrated and Value-Centered Budgeting](https://provost.illinois.edu/budget/budget-reform/) in FY20, the ECIP awards program was modified. Now in phase two, the winning ECIP buildings will receive a plaque and the associated prestige, and your colleges will benefit from the energy cost reductions.

The iCAP 2020 is expected to include objective #2.2.2: “*Reduce the total annual energy consumption of each college-level unit by at least 20% from the FY08 baseline by FY30*.” The responsibility for achieving this objective is given to the college-level units with support from F&S. To reach our conservation goals, we need to encourage people all across campus to actively choose to reduce energy consumption. To that end, F&S is launching the ECIP Championship Challenge.

Participating in the ECIP Championship Challenge involves five steps for the building contacts:

1. Facilities liaisons and communications staff from a building sign up online at <https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/2070017> in September.
2. The facilities and communications staff meet with F&S Sustainability staff, iSEE representatives, and the student representatives assigned to your building, in October.
   * In this 1.5 hour meeting, the students will share a draft Energy Report Card for the building, to finalize during the meeting.
   * The facilities liaisons will provide building-specific information about the energy and water infrastructure in the facility.
   * The communications staff will provide information about how the students can communicate efficiently and appropriately within the building.
   * The Sustainability staff from F&S and iSEE will share opportunities for implementing sustainability projects within the building.
   * A mutually agreeable plan for additional meetings with the facilities liaisons, communications staff, and student representatives will be identified.
3. Support the student representatives in their work to promote the ECIP and earn points in the challenge from October to March.
   * This includes assisting with communicating the students’ messages to the building occupants.
   * This also includes providing facility information for proposed facility projects.
4. The facilities and communications staff meet with F&S Sustainability staff, iSEE representatives, and the student representatives assigned to your building, in April.
   * In this one hour meeting, the students will present a summary of their efforts.
   * F&S and iSEE sustainability staff will request feedback from this initial year of the ECIP Championship Challenge.
5. Attend the awards ceremony in October 2021 to receive recognition for their efforts at the Campus Sustainability Celebration.

We recognize that this fall is an unusual time, and it may be difficult to communicate with “building occupants” when several students and employees are working remotely. Hopefully, this ECIP Challenge will provide an engaging method for students, faculty, and staff to be connected with their “normal” buildings, even from afar.

By signing up for this program, your building can earn the ECIP Championship award and become part of the growing number of ECIP award winning buildings who have already made a substantial impact on energy and water consumption. **Please sign up by September 25, 2020.**

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Morgan B. White*

Ms. Morgan White

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