

# SWATeam Recommendation

Name of SWATeam: Energy Conservation and Building Standards

SWATeam Chair: Marian Huhman

Date Submitted to iSEE:

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Specific Actions/Policy Recommended (a few sentences):

The ECBS SWATeam recommends conducting a one hour pilot audit of lights left on in select buildings on campus as part of a campus engagement and conservation strategy. Pairs of students accompanied by campus security/other personnel (as necessary) are assigned buildings to audit on the main Quad to turn off non-essential lights in classrooms/bathrooms not in use. Volunteers will meet at a designated location to sign in, review safety protocols and receive their tally sheets and floor plans. Students will use these sheets to indicate any empty rooms where they turned off lights. After the audit is complete, students will return all forms to designated staff and are then eligible for a prize/reward. The ECBS team intends to use the results of this pilot to recommend a more comprehensive year-round campaign called 'Illini Lights Out'.

Details of audit as follows:

- Buildings to be audited (8): Altgeld Hall, English Building, Lincoln Hall, Gregory Hall, Smith Memorial Hall, Foreign Languages Building, Davenport Hall, and Noyes Laboratory.
- Given the number of buildings, it is expected that 16 – 24 student volunteers are needed.
- Recommended date for pilot audit is **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 7pm.**
- Designated meeting spot required. Table in the Illini Union recommended between 5:45pm – 7:30pm.

Rationale for Recommendation (a few sentences):

Conducting light audits is a simple, fun and interactive way of engaging students with energy conservation while raising awareness of energy usage as it relates to climate change. There are currently no energy conservation initiatives on campus that are solely targeted to students year-round. This pilot audit will introduce students to the concept, gather feedback about the initiative and make improvements for a year-round, expanded 'Illini Lights Out' campaign in the future. The date selected coincides with the start of Earth Week the following week where the data collected can help to inform the campus of this initiative and its impact. Light audits will contribute to creating a more comprehensive energy campaign on campus if operated throughout the entire school year in a cost-effective manner. We have used Purdue's 'Friday Night Lights' program as a model, given its success last year in turning off 38,000 lights over the course of the year.

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences):

This campaign addresses Objective 4 of the Energy Conservation and Building Standards SWATeam (Chapter 2 of iCAP) – to engage and incentivize the campus community in energy conservation and to contribute to a comprehensive energy campaign.

Perceived Challenges (a few sentences):

Campus security should be notified and may be required to ensure safety of students and integrity of initiative.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation: iSEE, ECBS SWATeam

Anticipated level of budget and/or policy impact (low, medium, high): low; a small budget is required to purchase pizza for 30 student volunteers. Volunteer registration form and event communication required by iSEE.

Individual comments are required from each SWATeam member (can be brief, if member fully agrees):

Team Member Name	Team Member's Comments
Marian Huhman	Great idea. Go for it.
Fred Hahn	Good program. High value data; engages building users.
Karl Helmink	Other universities have such programs, and it would appear that this is a good way to engage our campuses given our present budgetary pressures.
Dhara Patel	I think that this is a good, low-cost initiative that will serve as a good step in engaging the campus in a sustained conversation.
Alex Dzurick	Great way to engage students in saving energy! Seems like a simple means to get things going.
Claudia Szczepaniak	Good start to increasing student engagement in campus sustainability efforts.
Morgan Kaplan	A proven way to involve students in sustainability and decrease our campus energy use!

Comments from Consultation Group (if any; these can be anonymous):

In order to determine effectiveness, a staff member could go through audited buildings an hour or two later or on the weekend to see if the lights that students turned off were turned back on again (as in to determine whether or not the light turned off would have just stayed on all night or not). Additionally, knowledge of maintenance schedule (cleaning, etc) is useful in order to not undermine initiative (student turns off light, maintenance/cleaning uses room shortly afterwards).

Explanation and Background (can be supplied in an attachment):

Many universities have already implemented light 'audits' as a way of engaging students and saving costs through energy conservation. A light audit initiative can be performed throughout the course of the year and be themed to further inspire students to participate (Halloween, Easter, Christmas, etc.), thus providing a way of sustaining engagement with energy conservation for the duration of the school year. Engagement levels are easily identifiable (total number of student volunteers throughout the year) and the cost savings through emissions and dollars saved can be calculated with relative ease. 'Illini Lights Out' can act as an initial step to further engaging the campus by sending e-mails or posting notices/stickers in rooms to communicate a light audit had been performed and to remind users to please switch off lights before leaving.