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One of the most important and recognizable issues of today's world is the issue of environmental conservation and global warming due to resource consumption. Many college students express interest in environmental issues, yet lack incentives to change lifestyle practices. One of the main incentives that motivate home-owners and renters to reduce their energy consumption is because they are responsible for paying their utility bills. Because college students that live in dormitories do not pay their utility bills, they are in turn unaware of their energy consumption and may be careless when it comes to their electricity usage.

Studies show that the greatest incentive in motivating college students to reduce their electricity usage is through visual feedback that provides easy-to-read information to students about how much energy they consume on a day- to-day basis. Information feedback alone can stimulate resource conservation practices in college students. This feedback, combined with the incentive of a tangible prize, can influence students to examine their resource consumption and motivate them to make better lifestyle choices.

DePaul's University Hall dormitory is equipped with a three-phase energy monitoring system that calculates electricity usage per floor in kilowatt hours. This technology is hooked up to the internet, making it easy for students to see how much electricity their floor uses over time. Based on success from other colleges and universities, we propose a competition among the residents in University Hall to see which floor can reduce their electricity usage by the most over a one-week period. Ideally, this competition would take place at the end of the fall quarter, such as the week of November 8th. The information gathered the week before could serve as a baseline, and the winning floor would then be determined by which floor reduced their electricity usage by the most from one week to the next. Throughout the competition, the students would be provided daily updates on the competition both online and through printouts that would be displayed in the residence hall. At the end of the competition, the floor that reduced their electricity consumption the most will receive a pizza party for the floor's residents.

In the weeks preceding the competition, we would arrange an informational meeting between the students of each floor and their Residential Advisors in order to inform students about the competition. This meeting would provide the students with basic information on how the competition will be run and can also serve to educate students about the energy monitoring systems present on each floor of University Hall. The week before the competition, we could arrange to canvass in University Hall by going door to door to remind students of the competition and provide them with tip sheets on how to reduce their electricity usage. These events would serve as reminders to the students and help create excitement among the residents about the competition.

At the end of the competition, the winning floor will receive a pizza party. Additionally, we will inform students on how much energy they saved and how many pounds of carbon dioxide they conserved over the competition's one-week period. We will also administer surveys to the students in order to find out how educational and informative the students found the competition to be. This feedback can be used to guide further competitions.