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November 17, 2009

University Hall Energy Monitoring Competition Reflection

During the week of Nov. 2 through Nov. 8, an electricity monitoring competition was held between floors 2, 3, and 4 of the University Hall dormitory. The energy used the week of the competition was compared to the average energy used during the two previous weeks, and this data was inputted online in graph form. These graphs and other data were available for viewing by students through the DePaul website. Students were encouraged to reduce their electricity consumption during this week-long competition period, and the floor that reduced their energy the most was given a pizza party as a prize.

In order to raise awareness about this competition, I went door to door in the residence hall and handed out fliers and tip sheets to the students the night before the competition was to begin. In addition, I sent daily email updates regarding the current results to all the residents, and reminded the students to check the website daily to view the results and graphs present on the site. During the week I printed out the online graphs and distributed them to the RA's to be posted in the residence hall so the students had a visual representation of their current consumption.

Overall, students saved 52.5 kWh of electricity during this week-long period. While this is a good start, we hope to run this competition during each academic quarter to encourage students to reduce their consumption by an even greater amount. This quarter's competition was a test run to see how students would respond to the competition. In the future I would like to get the RA's more involved and I think it would be a good idea to meet with the students at a residence hall meeting early in the quarter in order to educate students about the competition. In addition, I would like to post more information in University Hall throughout the quarter to get the students thinking about the different issues of electricity usage and environmental degradation. This information should also get posted on the website so that the website can serve as an accessible, easy to use informational source for the students. I did not get the chance to talk extensively with the RA's and students this quarter about the competition, and I think that lack of communication negatively impacted the competition results. In the future, I will try to be more directly involved with the students and RA's in order to motivate students to participate in the competition.