

SUSTAINABILITY

Morgan Library Sustainability Committee Newsletter

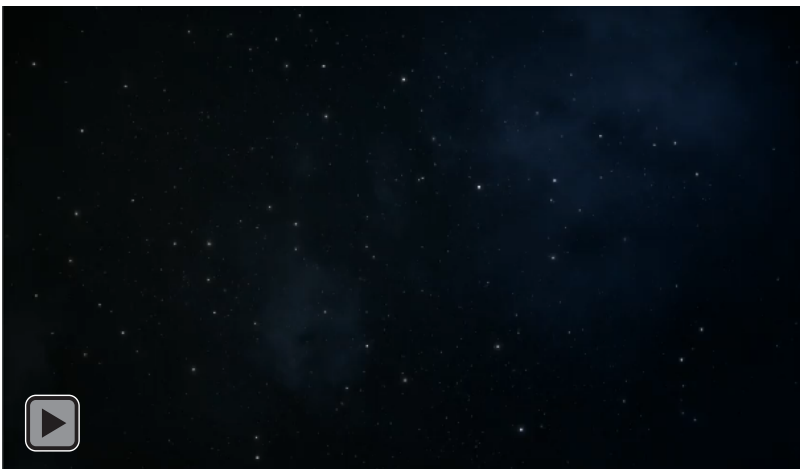
September 2015

We had our first Lunch and Learn this past Tuesday, the 15th. Aaron Fodge, the Alternative Transportation Manager, gave a quick overview of commuting by cycling and by transit. If you would like to meet with Aaron and discuss your transit needs you can contact him at Aaron.Fodge@colostate.edu

Tip to RAMP up your Green

Last year Morgan Library used over 6,700 pounds of paper towels. That is more than 1,700,000 paper towels! You can make a difference by decreasing how much you use. One way to do this is by bringing in cloth towels for use in your office.

As for the restroom, see the below video to learn how to use only ONE paper towel to dry your hands. It really works!



Video of Joe Smith at <http://on.ted.com/JoeSmith>

Did You Know?

You can recycle Batteries & CFL bulbs?

For batteries, there are small buckets in the south-west stair well. Just tape the terminals and toss them in!

For CFLs, just give facilities a call and they will pick them up!

The sustainability committee is working on creating a more public collection area for both batteries and CFLs. We will update as we know more!



Photo CC-BY [Jim Bauer](#)

Placing Library Technology on a Power Diet

By Don Albrecht, Manager of User Support Services, ACNS.

We all know that technology has quite an appetite for electrical power. We also know that those demands can be reduced by careful power management or a power diet.

According to The Energy Star Website (<https://www.energystar.gov/>) we can potentially save up to \$50 a year per computer and reduce our carbon footprint by actively managing our computer's energy use. This is best accomplished by placing our computers in standby mode when they are not in use.

Back in the day this was quite challenging. Fortunately, now all of the latest desktop and laptop computers have power saving settings that allow them to be placed in standby mode automatically after a preset time of inactivity. Standby mode, for the purposes of this discussion, means the monitor is powered down as is the computer's hard drive. These are the two greatest energy draws for a computer.

Library Technology support group has been utilizing this capability to reduce the power demands of Lab and classroom computers for a number of years now. However, we have not made use of these tools to reduce the power demands of staff and faculty computers. The reason for this had been concern over:

- The ability to remote into a desktop in standby
- The ability of a desktop in standby mode to receive automatic updates from Microsoft

This summer we've begun an energy audit with five goals:

1. Discover if the two concerns listed above are valid in our current environment (If they are, can we work around them?).
2. Revisit the current standby rules for all of our lab and computer class computers to see if they can be changed to save more energy
3. Determine how much energy we could save (without a major impact on productivity) by adopting reasonable power management rules to all of our computers
4. Determine what those 'reasonable power management rules' are
5. Find other ways to save energy with our other technologies (i.e. digital signage)

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The first step of this effort was to understand how much power our computers consume when the power is not managed. Then compare this to how much power our computers consume when the power is managed. Thanks to Facilities we were able to use a “watts up” power analyzer to take these measurements. Here are some preliminary results:

Without power saving mode: 36 Avg. Monthly Kilowatt hour * 12 = 432 KWH annually

With power saving mode*: 20 Avg. Monthly Kilowatt hour * 12 = 240 KWH annually

192 KWH savings per year X \$.10 (Colorado price per KWH) = \$19 savings per year per computer.

The cost seems small until it is applied to the 500+ desktop computers in the Library.

*Power saving mode places the computer on standby after 20 minutes of inactivity

We are just getting started with this effort. So there will be more reports to come as the effort continues.

Starting Your Own Power Diet

We still have a few Conserve Power Strips available! These power strips help you reduce the amount of power you are using in your office. You can quickly and easily cut off all power to multiple devices at once whenever you leave your office for an extended period. You can find more information about the strips at <http://www.belkin.com/us/F7C01008-Belkin/p/P-F7C01008/>.

Simply email Neyda.Gilman@colostate.edu with a sustainability pledge (it can be as simple as pledging to use the strip, or change a lightbulb, etc.) and how many items you would plug into the strip.

Contact Us

Contact us for more information about what we are doing, to suggest ideas, or suggest a guest writer.

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