

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

While Energy Management works very closely with HVAC and Climate Control, it is actually a separate department.

What does Energy Management do?

- Monitors district utility use and cost
- Implements cost saving measures via the district control systems
- After-hours scheduling via FS Direct
- Helps procure the best rate for future electricity
- Public engagement
 - Energy Committee
 - Utility Dashboard
 - 5k Fun Run
- Maintains Energy Design Guidelines

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you have a question that is not answered in this information please do not hesitate to reach out to the Energy Management Department.

What are normal operating hours for my building?

- Elementary Schools
 - 7:10 – 4:35
- Junior High Schools
 - 7:45 – 5:10
- High Schools
 - 6:35 – 4:00
- HVAC will be set to normal operation for all teacher contract days
- All after-hour requests should be entered by the campus requester via FS Direct
 - All attempts should be made to use RTU's over AHU's and as little of the building as possible.

I've been asked to "Turn-it-off" for an extended break...

What does that mean?

- We always ask that when you leave for the day that computers, printers, lights, etc. be turned off.
- Over extended breaks, such as Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring Breaks, we ask that equipment be unplugged.
- Although you may turn something off, like a computer, there is still a draw of power to run things like the internal clock.
- While Energy Management strongly discourages the use of personal appliances due to the cost incurred by the district and excess burdens placed on other departments, if you do have a refrigerator, please use these breaks as an opportunity to unplug and defrost.

Are there any materials available to engage the students in saving energy?

- YES! 😊
- Energy Management has partnered with Watt Watchers of Texas to provide TEKS aligned materials for students to learn the importance of conservation
- Watt Watchers offers information on many subjects, for example:
 - Electricity
 - Water Conservation
 - Recycling
- Watt Watchers encourages “student patrols” to involve students in the conservation effort
- All materials and more information is available on their website <https://www.watt-watchers.com/>



It's uncomfortable in my room...

What should I do?

- If applicable, check the slider in your room. You have a 2° swing above and below set-point based on the position of your slider.
- If your slider is already in the optimal position for your comfort, report the hot/cold room to your building's MaintenanceDirect operator. They will enter a work order on your behalf. Please remember that space heaters are prohibited due to fire risk.
- During the warmer months, keep blinds closed when possible to limit solar gain.
- During cooler periods, keep blinds open to utilize solar gain.
- In some cases, multiple rooms share a sensor. While compromises can be made, this may cause slight variations from set-point in individual class rooms. If your room tends to be cooler, try keeping a light sweater on hand.

HOW CAN I BE A SUPER SAVER

Tips on saving energy

Want to be an energy saving rock star?

- Always turn off lights when you leave a space
 - Lighting is 2nd to HVAC in terms of cost
- Turn off everything you can at the end of each day
 - Try using surge protectors to have an easy on/off
- Consider leaving items not frequently used unplugged until needed
 - Even when off, items plugged in still draw energy. Leaving items unplugged helps lower your buildings plug load.
- Lamps should use LED bulbs and should only be used when standard fixtures are off (task lighting)
- If you notice something running when it shouldn't be please ask your buildings MaintenanceDirect contact to enter a work order