

Eco-Olympics
Edgewood College

Contact: Denis Collins, dcollins@edgewood.edu, <http://business.edgewood.edu/dcollins>

The Annual Eco-Olympics is managed by students enrolled in the Spring “Social Responsibility in Business” class. Residence Halls compete to reduce electricity and heat consumption over a period of two months. The first Edgewood College Eco-Olympics was held in 2006. The event coincides with the April 22 celebration of Earth Day.

How does it work?

Introduction (Early February): Discuss project management and “Green Room Audit” form.

Benchmarks (February 10): Obtain heat (therms) and electricity (kilowatts) consumption for each of the six residence halls for January 5 to February 5 (Madison Gas & Electric bill website).

Students Educating and Motivating Behavioral Changes (Mid-February to Mid-April): Once a week, during a 75-minute class session, students meet on teams to independently develop and implement multiple strategies for educating and inspiring Residence Hall occupants to reduce heat, electricity, and water consumption. Methods include:

- Encouraging an informal leader or charismatic person in the Residence Hall to do something environmentally friendly or lead a green activity
- Creating competition within the Residence Hall (measure and reward green behaviors)
- Creating flyers advertising how to be “green” and how climate change factors may change life in Madison or their own lives, a newsletter, or Facebook page

Conduct “Green Room Audit” (Mid-February to Mid-April): Each team conducts a “Green Room Audit” of each Residence Hall room to determine who has the most eco-friendly room. Prizes are awarded to winners.

Team Meeting Management Skills: At the end of each team meeting students submit a team meeting evaluation form. Students assign points for (1) being prepared for meeting, (2) attending meeting, and (3) being constructive. Team also reports: (1) what was accomplished during the meeting, (2) what tasks must be done prior to next meeting, and (3) agenda for next meeting.

Determining Winner (Mid-April): New measures are obtained for heat and electricity use at the end of the contest. Prizes are awarded to the Residence Halls with the greatest percentage reduction in monthly heat consumption and electricity consumption.

Resources:

Residence Hall “Green Room Audit” form:

<http://business.edgewood.edu/dcollins/pdfdocuments/Dorm%20Room%20Eco%20Audit.S09.pdf>

Article about my Environmental Class Projects:

<http://business.edgewood.edu/dcollins/pdfdocuments/EC%20Enviro%20Projects14.pdf>