



# POWER DOWN FOR WINTER ENERGY SETBACK

Unplug and power down your space before winter break

December 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 – January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023

Dear Cornell Staff and Faculty,

Whether you are working on campus or remotely, we encourage you to [power down](#) your workspaces over winter break. Please join your colleagues in saving energy within your offices, labs, and common areas before you leave campus. Each year, your participation in Cornell's *Winter Energy Setback* avoids powering unused electronics, heating unoccupied buildings, and lighting empty offices. This collective action saves a huge amount of energy on campus, minimizes the use of natural resources, and reduces our university's carbon emissions – critical steps toward our goal of achieving [carbon neutrality on the Ithaca campus by 2035](#).

Please take the following key actions in spaces you occupy:

- Switch off power strips and unplug any electronics plugged directly into the wall  
*Many devices use electricity even when “turned off,” including computers, TVs, printers, chargers, copiers, coffee makers, microwaves, lamps, and space heaters.*
- Turn off lights
- Close & lock all windows and close shades
- Shut all interior and exterior doors
- Set your thermostat on the minimum setting (around 65°F), if easily adjustable  
*Do not turn heat off.*
- Shut the sash completely on all fume hoods that cannot be [hibernated](#)  
*Any fume hood not used for six weeks or more is a candidate for hibernation. Contact your facility coordinator to have a fume hood hibernated.*
- [Report facilities issues](#) like leaky faucets, running toilets, overly hot or cold rooms  
*Contact FCS Customer Service with questions: [fcsinfo@cornell.edu](mailto:fcsinfo@cornell.edu)*
- Remind colleagues and students to take these actions before they leave too

Our collective actions help the campus run more efficiently. Last year, we saved [583,200 kWh of electricity and 3,160 klbs in steam](#) during the weeklong winter setback saving the university over \$117,000. This is equivalent to eliminating 80 homes' electricity use for one year, growing 6,800 trees for 10 years, switching 15,600 light bulbs to LEDs, or avoiding 16,800 propane cylinders for home barbeques. The impact is huge – over the past decade, campus participation in this program has saved the university over \$1.1 million in energy costs.

If you have a hybrid or remote work arrangement, check out [Sustainability Life Recipes](#) from the Campus Sustainability Office for more ideas on how to save energy in your home office. Thank you for your continued efforts to save energy and reduce carbon emissions on campus. As [President Pollack recently shared](#), “At Cornell, sustainability isn't just a goal – it's a way of life.”

I wish you all a warm and joyful winter break.

Rick Burgess  
Vice President, Facilities and Campus Services  
Cornell University