

## **CAMPUS CONSERVATION NATIONALS: 2015 REVIEW**

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Campus Conservation Nationals was an opportunity to educate and raise awareness for energy and water conservation in Residence Life. Residential students have the largest impact on UCCS' carbon footprint since they live on campus. This presents a target group of people that have the opportunity of making an impact in reduction based on behavior change.

Each Wednesday in February, UCCS Residence Life and the Office of Sustainability hosted a new conservation-themed event. These events focused on different aspects of conservation, including energy reduction via alternative activities (Less is S'more), using recycled materials to save energy (Cardboard Craft Night), the type of energy that is used in food production (The Energy on Your Plate), and a special Earth Hour awareness movie event (Lorax screening).

Attendance and participation for each event ranged from about 20 students to over 70, with a handful of students attending multiple events. Unique activities, trivia and conservation-themed prizes were included at each event. Students were encouraged to take a Small Paws Prints Pledge to unplug from electronics to conserve energy. By the end of the competition, the total number of hours pledged to unplug was 381.5 hours.

An interactive, light-up, eco-house display, constructed by the Office of Sustainability, presented the amount of energy saved on a daily basis using colored lights. The house also served as a display for infographics on electricity, as well as having the roof tiled with students' Small Paw Prints Pledges. The display was funded by the University's Green Action Fund to increase behavior change and conservation education.

Given the significant increase in this year's CCN participation, there will be further growth in a conservation culture at UCCS. Participation in conservation efforts will continue to advance the University's goal of 20% reduction in carbon emission by 2020.