

Campus Conservation Nationals: Residential Students Energy Competition

By David Rodgers, Brittany Burns and Armand Moussaouyi

The month of February starts a national competition that encourages residential students to reduce their consumption of energy and water. This year's competition will be between our three housing villages at UCCS: Summit Village, Alpine Village, and Village at Alpine Valley to see which village can reduce their energy consumption by the largest percentage. The effort will be supported by a collaboration between the Office of Sustainability and the Office of Residence Life and Housing. Anya Salzgeber, Residence Hall Manager, is most looking forward to the competition "[bringing] out a fun way to raise awareness of consumption habits among our residents and bring them together to work towards a common goal".

Her advice to residents for reaching this goal includes being constantly aware of the energy and water that is being used and "start consuming with intention instead of habit". Anya saves energy and water by using reusable water bottles, unplugging her phone charger when it's not in use, and turning everything off when she leaves her apartment. According to Anya, the biggest takeaway from this competition for students "will likely be the small changes they can make in their daily life to help conserve energy and water".

During CCN, events will take place throughout the month to help educate residents and increase involvement. All of these events are open to the public.

UCCS Unplugged: On Wednesday, February 1 from 7-9 pm at The Lift. The kickoff, no-mic event brings students together for a variety of performances. All the performances will not require the use of electricity.

Energy on your Plate: This event, occurring on Wednesday, February 15 from 7-9 pm in the La Plata Lobby, focuses on the energy put into producing various food items. There will be free food provided by SWELL and The Flying Carrot.

Each year that UCCS has competed, there has been an increase in the amount of energy and money saved. Last year, the overall electricity reduction was 3.19%. The goal for this year is to surpass last year's reduction.