

UM Sustainability Pledge – Facts about your commitments

I pledge to support UM's sustainability goals and initiatives. I commit to reducing my own environmental impact and supporting my community in these ways:

ENERGY

- Adjust the thermostat by a few degrees
 - According to the DOE, the heating and cooling load of your building could decrease by 2-3%, if all its occupants adjusted their thermostats by even just a few degrees (down in winter and up in summer).
- Always turn off lights and appliances that aren't in use
 - To dispel one common myth, it does NOT require more energy to turn the light back on—always best to turn it off if you leave!
- Unplug chargers and electronics when they're not in use
 - Conventional battery chargers — even when not actively charging a product — can draw as much as 5 to 20 times more energy than is actually stored in the battery!
 - Home electronic products use energy when they're off to power features like clock displays and remote controls. U.S. households spend \$100 per year to power devices while they are in this "standby" power mode.
- Set energy saving modes and functions as defaults on all electronics and appliances
- Use cold or warm water setting on the washing machine
 - About 90% of the energy used by clothes washing machines is for heating the water. And according to the US Dept of Energy, washing clothes on cold or warm is usually sufficient, and simply using warm instead of hot can **cut energy use for that load in half!** Look for detergents specially formulated for use with cold water.
- Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
 - According to ENERGY STAR, qualified bulbs use about **75 percent less energy** than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to **10 times longer**, **save about \$30 or more** in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime, and produce about **75 percent less heat**, so they're safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling. They are also available in different sizes and shapes to fit in almost any fixture, for indoors and outdoors.

Check out the Natural Resource Defense Councils "[How to Reduce your Energy Consumption](#)" page:

Learn more about Computer energy waste at Harvard's [Campus Energy Reduction Program](#)