

William Paterson University is committed to reducing the consumption of utilities in keeping with the best principles of environmental sustainability. The University's goal is to implement conservation and sustainability measures that allow us to use only the utilities needed to support the University's educational mission. Thus, the University has adopted a policy to promote the conservation of energy to reduce our carbon footprint. Through this policy, the Department of Physical Plant Operations/Facilities Management strives to achieve work and study conditions within comfortable temperature standards throughout the campus.

**Switchover from Heating to Cooling** - As the spring temperatures warm, Physical Plant staff begins the process of transitioning University building HVAC systems from heating to air conditioning. As University buildings are heated and cooled with several types of HVAC systems there will be times during the transition from heating to cooling when your spaces may not be as comfortable as you would like.

Due to the nature of the mechanical systems throughout our Campus, "on demand" heating and air-conditioning is not possible. We have a water-based system that only allows for hot water to be run through the pipes when the heat is on and chilled water to be run through the pipes when the A/C is on. The hot and chilled water cannot be run concurrently and when we convert from heat to A/C and vice versa, it involves more than a flip of a switch and the conversion process typically takes five to seven days. Therefore, we monitor long range forecasts and must make decisions for the longer term versus what the next day or two might bring in terms of temperatures.

Because of wide temperature fluctuations at certain times in the late Fall and early Spring, it is impossible for us to provide heating and cooling to satisfy everyone's internal thermostat. The exposure of the building to the sun adds to the challenge of providing heating or cooling that satisfies everyone during these very short periods of temperature fluctuations. It is not uncommon that on the very same day (and sometimes in the very same building), we have requests for air-conditioning and other requests for heating.

When to switch between heating and cooling in the spring is always a difficult decision. Making the switch too early will result in comfortable buildings when the outdoor temperature is above 70°, but cool buildings when it drops below 70° degrees, sometimes a few hours later. Unfortunately, switching from heating to cooling in a large building is a time consuming task on the technicians, they change a multitude of valves, reset controls, bleed air from the system, start and stop pumps, etc. Given the magnitude of the work involved in the changeover, once the decision is made to switch the building occupants must live with the decision until the reverse switch takes place in the fall. A wrong decision can create a lot of angry phone calls and e-mails when the outside temperature drops and the building is cold. The Physical Plant Staff understands that the recent record high temperatures created uncomfortable conditions for the campus community on Monday and Tuesday and we are appreciative of your understanding in this matter.