

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 Cooling to Heating - As the fall temperatures cool, Physical Plant staff begins the process of transitioning the University's HVAC systems from air conditioning to heating. As University buildings are heated and cooled with different HVAC systems there will be times during the transition from cooling to heating when your spaces may not be as comfortable as you would like. We ask for your patience and appreciate your cooperation in the event of building temperature fluctuations.

Transition Considerations

When to switch between cooling and heating in the fall is always a difficult decision. Making the switch too early in the fall will result in comfortable buildings when the outdoor temperature is below 70, but warm buildings when it rises above 70 degrees, sometimes a few hours later. Unfortunately, switching from cooling to heating 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 spring. A wrong decision can create a lot of angry phone calls and e-mails when the outside temperature rises and the building is warm. To make the situation more difficult, the mix of air conditioning systems in our buildings makes the seasonal changes very difficult to handle in a manner that treats all spaces uniformly. Some systems can be switched automatically. However direct expansion systems take a little more time to switch while evaporative cooling systems with cooling towers take a lot of time to switch.

When Will I Have Heating?

Here are the answers you are waiting for: what are we going to do and when? The climatological data shows **mid October** as the period when daytime temperatures consistently remain below 70degrees. Prior to mid-late October there are periods of temperature excursions well below 70 degrees, but there are also periods when the daily high reaches 70+ degrees. Thus, after the switch from cooling to heating takes place there will be days when the outside temperatures reach over 70 degrees. The warm outside temperatures will make spaces warmer than desired and there will be nothing we can do except to wait for Mother Nature to cool the outside air. The HVAC staff has been doing preparation work to be ready for the heating season for several weeks and we are confident that we can accomplish this task by the end of next week.

Thank you for taking the time to better understand the issues we deal with during the transition between heating season and cooling season and for your patience as we deal with these issues.

Plant Engineer
Physical Plant Operations