

Saving energy gets competitive, computerized at UWM



The online "energy dashboard" shows up-to-date data on use of electricity, gas, and water in UWM's Cambridge Commons and RiverView residence halls.

Saving energy at two residence halls at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM) will be a competitive activity starting this month. A new "energy dashboard" system currently installed in UWM's Riverview and Cambridge Commons residences will allow students to effectively monitor their electrical, heating and water use, and see which building's residents can reduce their consumption the most.

Michael Murray, CEO of Lucid Design Group Inc., manufacturer of the technology, will officially launch the three-week competition at UWM Wednesday, Oct. 13, at 4 p.m. at Cambridge Commons, 2323 N. Cambridge Ave.

The Lucid technology captures real-time energy-use data and provides students with the ability to see how their behavior impacts energy consumption. Other universities using the software in residence halls report between 20 and 30 percent energy savings.

"UWM will be the first campus in Wisconsin to use the Lucid Design Group technology to create a real-time energy dashboard, a system that will enhance the competitions between our residence halls," says Scott Peak, director of University Housing.

In addition to the local competition, UWM's overall performance will be entered in the **Campus Conservation Nationals 2010**, which involves students in residence halls at 38 U.S. universities, and is sponsored in part by Lucid Design Group.

The rest of campus and the public can follow along at <http://www.buildingdashboard.com/clients/uwm/>. The winner of the competition will be determined by the percentage of energy savings recorded in each hall, since Riverview houses 488 students and Cambridge Commons has 700.

Additional dashboards will become operational at Sandburg Residence Halls on campus Nov. 1 and at the Engineering Math Sciences (EMS) building by the end of the year.

The dashboard systems are part of a UWM initiative to design and retrofit campus buildings for energy efficiency. The Office of Sustainability is currently conducting an "energy audit" and renovations across campus, called "Energy Matters," to find ways to reduce energy costs, boost sustainability and increase comfort in campus buildings.

For more on the **Campus Conservation Nationals 2010**, go to <http://competetoreduce.org/>.

Lucid Design Group is a privately held software company, founded in 2004, and a pioneer in providing real-time information feedback to teach, inspire behavior change, and save energy and water resources in buildings. The local distributor of the Lucid Design Group system, Uihlein Electric, has been active in the system installation and staff training during the fall semester.



The energy dashboard shows current and historical use of gas (above) and water (below) as well as electricity consumption.

