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Beth Potier
UNH Media Relations

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UNH, Houghton's Ace Hardware Offer Discounts On Energy Saving Appliances To University And Durham Community

Reduce Energy And Emissions While Saving Money, One Light Bulb Or Compact Fridge At A Time

Contact: [Beth Potier](#)
603-862-1566
UNH Media Relations

[Brett Pasinella](#)
603-862-5039
UNH Office of Sustainability

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DURHAM, N.H. – For the third year, the University Office of Sustainability at the University of New Hampshire and Houghton's ACE Hardware of Durham have partnered to offer discounts on a range of energy-saving appliances to everyone in the UNH and Durham communities. The WildCAP discount program, which offers savings of up to 50 percent, is accepting orders for Energy Star compact refrigerators, microwaves and other appliances as well as compact fluorescent light bulbs through Aug. 24. WildCAP is the UNH Climate Action Plan to significantly lower emissions of greenhouse gases as part of the University's commitment to being a climate protection campus.

Orders for Energy Star compact refrigerators, microwaves, and other larger appliances placed with Houghton's by Aug. 24 will be available for pick-up at Houghton's Durham store during student move-in week, September 1 through 7, adding the convenience of not having to transport appliances during the big move onto campus. To download an order form and product details, go to www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/climate_ed/wildcap/index.html.

"Electricity demand on campus, and across the nation, has been growing rapidly in recent years, due in part to the increasing number of electronic devices we use. So, as students begin thinking about setting up their dorm rooms and apartments for the fall semester, it is more important than ever that they make energy efficient choices in lighting and appliances. We hope that students will join with the rest of the UNH community and participate in our commitments to save energy and stabilize the climate system," says Sara Cleaves, associate director of the University Office of Sustainability. "We also hope that faculty and staff will take a fresh look at their offices to see where they can help save energy too."

"We are both excited and honored to be part of this important community initiative," says Houghton's ACE Hardware owner Jim Houghton. "It has become very clear that each one of us needs to do our part in conserving energy and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions to help slow global warming. We at Houghton's ACE Hardware feel that with each additional person who adopts the philosophy of 'think globally, act locally,' personal decisions will benefit both

the environment and community. Our hope is that with the discounts offered on these energy efficient products, more people will be able to afford to take advantage of energy efficient options." To see energy-efficient appliances available through WildCAP as well as other environmentally friendly products that Houghton's carries, go to www.houghtonshardware.com/wildcapproducts.html.

In February 2007, UNH Interim President J. Bonnie Newman signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, adding UNH to the leadership circle of colleges and universities committed to climate neutrality, significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and education and research on climate change. UNH was the first New England land-grant university to sign the Commitment, and WildCAP – part of UNH's Climate Education Initiative (CEI) – is the university's response to meeting the goals of the Commitment and expanding UNH's national leadership as a sustainable learning community. For more information on UNH's Climate Education Initiative, visit www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/climate_ed/index.html.

WildCAP discounts are among many climate-related efforts in which students can get involved at UNH this coming academic year. From "powering down" the new appliances and electronics they buy – setting the power settings on computers and turning off and unplugging appliances and electronics – to taking Wildcat Transit to riding a Cat Cycle to attending the September 20 Local Harvest Dinner of local and sustainable foods, students can easily lower their carbon footprints.

What's more, the energy efficient products purchased through WildCAP discounts will give every student an edge in the fall '07 Student Energy Waste Watch Challenge, which pits residence halls against each other to reduce energy and water consumption. Last year, students switched off, powered down, swapped out, and unplugged their way to a total savings of \$40,000 in water and energy costs and reduced carbon emissions equivalent to not driving 41 passenger cars for a year. This fall's contest runs Oct. 24 – Nov. 21 and coincides with the UNH Panhellenic Council's Greek Energy Challenge II for fraternities and sororities. Students can learn more about these efforts, called Sustainable YouNH, at www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/students.html.

