



UNH WildCAP Initiative Helps Campus Community Save Energy And Money

Office Of Sustainability Partners With Houghton ACE Hardware For Discounts On Energy Efficient Products: Order By August 1

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June 26, 2006

DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire's Office of Sustainability launches the second year of WildCAP, a climate action program that makes it easier for students and their parents, faculty, staff, and Durham area residents and landlords to reduce their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions while saving money - one light bulb or compact fridge at a time.

Through WildCAP, Houghton's ACE Hardware of Durham, Lee, and Newmarket offers discounts on ENERGY STAR and energy efficient appliances, electronics, and compact fluorescent light bulbs - up to 50% off the listed retail price on some items. Orders for ENERGY STAR and energy efficient televisions, DVD players, DVD and television combination units, audio systems, compact refrigerators, compact microwaves, and more must be placed with Houghton's by August 1. Items will be available for pick-up at Houghton's Durham or Lee stores on August 25 and 27 when students move back to UNH for the fall. To download an order form and product details, visit www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/climate_ed/wildcap/index.html.

"As students begin thinking about setting up their dorm rooms and apartments for the fall semester, we hope they'll make energy efficient choices in lighting, appliances, and electronics," says Sara Cleaves, Climate Education Initiative coordinator at UNH's Office of Sustainability. "We also hope that faculty and staff will take a fresh look at their offices -- and that area landlords will look at the properties they manage -- to see where they can save energy. By offering generous discounts on ENERGY STAR and energy efficient products, our WildCAP partner, Houghton's ACE Hardware here in Durham, is helping all of us conserve energy, reduce our greenhouse gases emissions, and save money."

"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 painfully clear that the time has come for each of us to play our part in helping to help clean up and preserve our environment. We at Houghton's ACE Hardware feel that with each additional person who adopts the philosophy of 'Think Globally, Act Locally,' personal decisions will be affected that

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.”

Besides the larger appliances that must be ordered in advance, ENERGY STAR and energy efficient products like compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are regularly available at discounted prices at Houghton’s ACE Hardware’s three locations - off Main Street in Durham, near the Lee Traffic Circle in Lee, and on Route 108 in Newmarket. CFLs use 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer. The Office of Sustainability calculates that if every dorm room at UNH replaced just one incandescent bulb with a CFL, the total annual energy savings would be equivalent to taking 23 cars off the road. For more energy-saving ideas, tour WildCAP’s virtual energy-efficient dorm room at www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/climate_ed/wildcap/virtual_dorm.html.

WildCAP is a project of UNH’s Climate Education Initiative (CEI), a university-wide effort coordinated by the Office of Sustainability to maintain UNH’s national leadership as a Climate Protection Campus: a campus that continuously reduces emissions and saves money through conservation, energy independence, and education. For more information on UNH’s Climate Education Initiative, visit www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/climate_ed/index.html.

WildCAP is one of many energy-related efforts in which students can get involved in academic year 2006-2007. Next year’s Discovery Program Dialogue theme is energy, and students will be able to read a variety of faculty-authored papers on energy, attend speeches and events, and learn more about energy in New Hampshire. In addition, next year is the inaugural season of UNH’s Student Energy WasteWatch Challenge, in which residence halls and houses on campus will compete in lowering their energy and water use. The Student Energy WasteWatch Challenge is sponsored by the UNH Energy Task Force, the Office of Sustainability, and Residential Life. Visit www.unh.edu/academic-affairs/discovery/u-dialog.html and www.unh.edu/etf/challenge.html for more information.