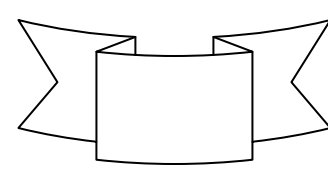


2013 Winner



beyond expectations

## DAVID A. DECOSTER EXCELLENCE IN ASSESSMENT AWARD



### RESIDENTIAL ENERGY PROJECT

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Graduate Assistant—Residential Sustainability Educator

The purpose of the Residential Energy Project was to increase students' awareness of the impact their practices have on energy usage and to help students develop energy saving practices that would be useful throughout the course of their lives.

Current and prospective students have become increasingly interested in what IUP does to address issues related to energy and environmental sustainability. Through the combined efforts of individuals from several campus divisions and the Foundation for IUP, the Residential Energy Project became not only a marketing tool to recruit new students, but an initiative that sent a positive message about the University's commitment to the environment.

#### **Outcomes:**

- The project encouraged students to recognize the effects of their actions and connect classroom learning to their residential experiences, which related to "developing character and citizenship by providing learning opportunities which enhance the classroom experience" and "providing ethical management and responsive service"
- Enabled students to develop a desire for lifelong learning.
- These outcomes relate to the mission and vision of the Office of Housing, Residential Living, and Dining.

#### **Activity:**

- Energy screens were created to display energy usage data collected from IUP's eight suite-style buildings.
- Using the energy screens, a competition among residential facilities was used to assess student's development of energy saving practices.
- Television monitors were placed in the lobbies of each of the suite-style buildings to display energy slides which provided energy saving tips and other information related to energy and sustainability. Also displaying this information was the IUP's residential cable television system.
- Daily updates on the competition were available to students through Facebook and Twitter with final updates distributed via email.
- Two questions were included in the EBI Resident Study, which is completed by all residential students. These questions aimed to measure changes in student awareness of their impact on energy usage and their development of sustainable practices.

#### **Methodology:**

In order to assess student's understanding of the energy data, the Graduate Assistant—Residential Sustainability Educator attended meetings of both Environmentally Conscious Organization (ECO) and the Residence Hall Association (RHA) during the fall semester. Their feedback was incorporated in the energy slide design. Data received from the two questions included in the EBI Resident Study, (measured on a five-point Likert scale) was used to determine whether students' awareness of sustainability issues has increased and whether students have developed sustainable behaviors by comparing data from year to year or comparing mean responses of students living in the suites with the mean response of students living in traditional residence halls.

#### **Assessment:**

The assessment of this project was multifaceted with data collected by a number of individuals using a variety of techniques. Student organizations were able to provide feedback, while EBI results and energy consumption data have provided baseline data to compare with future assessment results. Committee member feedback was essential to the continued development of the project over the next year.

#### **Results:**

Based on the assessment activities an action plan was created to address challenges that were identified and recommendations that were provided. The Residential Energy Project committee intends to use the action plan to implement suggested changes and improve the project and the student experience.



Indiana University of Pennsylvania