

Activity 2

Energy Star Calculator

Goals:

- Calculate the impact participants have on the earth
- Develop a greater awareness of energy consumption
- Recognition of the importance of sustainable product procurement
- Elicit a sense of individual responsibility to living sustainably

Outcomes:

- Quantitative information pertaining to energy usage on campus
- Predict life-cycle and economic savings

Background: Calculators make for excellent sustainability activities as they establish quantifiable information that can then be recorded and followed as Dalhousie aspires to become a more sustainable university. Dalhousie University is an Energy Star member and has access to a variety of resources pertaining to energy savings and conservation. The Energy Star Simple Savings Calculator is a tool designed to educate individuals on the economic and environmental benefits associated with energy-efficient procurement. The calculator allows users to determine energy savings, predict life-cycle energy and economic savings through replacing standard products with energy-efficient ones, compare operating costs, and many other energy related results. Conduct an Energy Star Simple Savings calculation to create a more sustainable campus through the provision of vital data.

Suggested Time: 1 hour or more (dependent on the magnitude of the assessment).

Place: Educational material section of ReThink: Sustainability on Campus website

People:

- Leader
- Data/ information collectors

Materials:

Information from previous Sustainability Assessment activity, or collect your own energy data!

- Energy Star Calculator (posted in the educational material section of ReThink: Sustainability on Campus website)
- Data master sheet for electronic recording
- Clipboard and pen
- Extra note-taking paper

NOTES:

STEP 1

- **ORGANIZE A GROUP OF TEAMMATES THAT ARE INTERESTED IN CONDUCTING THE CALCULATION**

If enough interest is shown, you may choose to arrange a trip to the same location at a later date for new participants.

STEP 2

- Hold a brief meeting or send out an email to team members and other potential participants to confirm attendance.
- Discuss transportation methods that reduce air emissions. (From old activity)

Provide resources and links on built environment issues and green building design to brief participants and stimulate interest.