

# **SWATeam Recommendation: Continuation of Illini Lights Out**

Name of SWATeam: Energy Conservation and Building Standards

SWATeam Chair: Marian Huhman

Date Submitted to iSEE: April 6, 2017

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Specific Actions/Policy Recommended (a few sentences):

The ECBS SWATeam recommends conducting the 'Illini Lights Out' program on an ongoing basis. It is currently being implemented two Friday nights each month during the academic year (September – April). This recommendation is based on the current successes of the project that originally was piloted on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The ECBS SWATeam led the pilot event and the Illini Lights Out events in fall 2016 with support from iSEE for promotion on Facebook and in the iSEE Newsletter. Starting in spring 2017, iSEE staff have begun coordinating the effort with support of the ECBS SWATeam. We recommend that as an ongoing program, iSEE assume coordination of Illini Lights Out, with help from students and the ECBS SWATeam

Pairs of students accompanied by campus security/other personnel (as necessary) are assigned buildings to audit on the main Quad to turn off non-essential lights in classrooms/bathrooms not in use. Volunteers meet at a designated location to sign in, review safety protocols and receive their tally sheets. Students use these sheets to indicate any empty rooms where they turned off lights. After the audit is complete, students return all forms to designated staff and are then eligible for their free meal (pizza/burritos).

Previous buildings audited include: Altgeld Hall, English Building, Lincoln Hall, Gregory Hall, David Kinley Hall, Foreign Languages Building, Davenport Hall, and Noyes Laboratory. Recently, additional buildings such as Morrell and Medical Sciences and Engineering Building were added. Two to three students per building are needed for a total of about 24 to 36 student volunteers needed. At a recent Illini Lights Out event, 2018 lights were turned off for an estimated savings of \$615.62 if those lights had stayed on all weekend. Over the five ILO events so far in the 2016 -2017 academic year, 6394 lights have been turned off and 41 windows closed.

Rationale for Recommendation (a few sentences):

Illini Lights Out directly engages students in energy conservation. Conducting light audits through the ILO program is simple to execute, low cost and is an interactive way of engaging students with energy conservation while raising awareness of energy usage. There are currently no energy conservation initiatives on campus that are solely targeted to students year-round. Student volunteers collect data on the number of lights turned off for each building and discover trends in user behavior over time. Feedback from student volunteers is that it's a fun and positive experience. The Illini Lights Out program reaches students across many fields and is a low cost option for engaging the campus community.

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences):

This campaign directly addresses Objective 4 of the Energy Conservation and Building Standards SWATeam (Chapter 2 of iCAP) – to engage and incentivize the campus community in energy conservation.

Perceived Challenges (a few sentences):

- Does iSEE have the resources and staff to lead Illini Lights Out?
- For the 2016-2017 academic year, SSC funded the pizza meals.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation: iSEE, ECBS SWATeam

Anticipated level of budget and/or policy impact (low, medium, high): low/medium - \$1000; this budget covers the expenses for volunteer dinners/treats for two events each month throughout the academic year (September –

April \$100/event x 10 events = \$1000). The program could be expanded to more buildings with more volunteers for an increased cost.

Individual comments are required from each SWATeam member (can be brief, if member fully agrees):

Team Member Name	Team Member's Comments
Marian Huhman	ILO exemplifies the spirit of Objective 4 of our SWATeam—engaging students directly in energy conservation and is a low cost, highly visible energy savings effort.
Yun Kyu Yi	I highly recommend having an organization like iSEE to manage the event. It would be hugely beneficial if some of the student body take a significant role and iSee can support the event.
Fred Hahn	ILO has proven, measurable benefits. Results should posted via campus media. Possible consequence may be that campus occupants will expand “switching their lights out” to shutting off other electronics before leaving the building. Program should be continued until it becomes part of our culture.
Karl Helmink	Nice simplistic program that raises awareness and is done on other campuses. This could lead to larger scale items.
Dhara Patel	A logical extension of the good work that has been done so far with Illini Lights Out. Easy to implement with high probability of continued success, which could even be scaled up.
Alex Dzurick	This program heavily engages numerous students in directly saving energy on campus, developing habits that will make our campus, community, and country more sustainable. This program is worth continuing.

Comments from Consultation Group (if any; these can be anonymous): None

Explanation and Background (can be supplied in an attachment):

Many universities have already implemented light ‘audits’ as a way of engaging students and saving costs through energy conservation. Initiating a year-round light auditing program provides a way of sustaining engagement with energy conservation for the duration of the academic year. Engagement levels are easily identifiable (total number of student volunteers throughout the year) and the cost savings through emissions and dollars saved can be calculated with relative ease. ‘Illini Lights Out’ can act as an initial step to further engaging the campus by sending e-mails or posting notices/stickers in rooms to communicate a light audit had been performed and to remind users to please switch off lights before leaving.

### Illini Lights Out Results 2016 – 2017 (To Date)

BUILDING	LIGHTS	November 17			December 9			February 10			February 24			March 10			
		Left On	Turned	Closed	Left On	Turned	Closed	Left On	Turned	Closed	Left On	Turned	Closed	Left On	Turned	Closed	
Altgeld Hall	629		16	1		82	0	246	163	1		1	54	0		314	0
Bevier Hall	158											15	32	3		126	0
Burrill Hall	295							145	145	0						150	0
Chemistry Annex	373							189	143	0			64	0		166	0
Davenport Hall	589		124	1		142	0	124	107	0			216	9			0
David Kinley	256		104	0		60	0	45	45	0		5	47	0			0
English Building	507		104	0		123	1	22	22	0			176	2		82	0
Foreign Language Building	304		48	0		65	0	70	56	0			30	0		105	0
Gregory Hall	432		128	5		23	0	266	141	0			23	0		117	0
Lincoln Hall	739		121	0		25	0	223	145	0		19	253	0		195	0
Material Science Building	795							438	427	0			368	0			0
Morrill Hall	775							305	305	0		8	168	0		302	0
Noyes Lab	153		15	1		57	0	128	43	5		128	38	11			0
Roger Adams Laboratory	353							335	241	0			112	0			0
Smith Hall	36							35	35	0						1	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6394</b>		<b>660</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>577</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2571</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>1581</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>1558</b>	<b>0</b>