

Friday Night Lights



Turning out lights when you leave a room in your house, apartment or dorm often feels like second nature, but what about the classrooms, lecture halls, offices and hallways on campus? Lights are often left on for **48 hours or more** over the weekend while students and faculty are away from campus. That's money lost and energy wasted, but you can do something to help. You can lead a Friday Night Lights group to turn off lights in buildings on campus and save both money and energy.

To get started, follow these steps:

- 1 Set a goal** - Decide how many buildings to start with. We recommend starting small with a few key buildings around the quad, student union or main hub on campus.
- 2 Pick a date/time** - Decide on the time you'll kick off the event, and how long you think it might take. Choose a time that is most convenient for student - Either soon after classes end or an hour or two before a common on-campus Friday night event.
- 3 Choose a meeting location** - Select a central place on campus to meet where you'll also be visible to other students and faculty.
- 4 Check-in with the right people** - It's good to check-in with your campus' facilities/security department to find out if you need assistance/permission to access certain buildings at night. Also, connect with the office of sustainability to see if they are interested in supporting your efforts. Asking never hurts, and there's a good chance they'll help and support you once you're able to *quantify your impact* (see step 8)
- 5 Spread the word** - Target environmental clubs or groups on campus, reach out to listservs for environmental majors, and publicize your event in the school newspaper and on Facebook and Twitter.
- 6 Prep your materials** - To track your progress, you should give each group a tracking sheet where they can record the following: Building name, classroom number, # of light switches and # of light banks each switch turns off.
- 7 Divide and conquer** - Once everyone arrives, break up into groups of 2-4 people. If you have a large turnout, give each group a floor or hall of a building.
- 8 Quantify your impact** - Compile your results to see how big of an impact you had. A simple formula you can use is to see the energy savings generated by your FNL event is: Number of watts x number of hours the light is on x cents/kWh)/1000

Number of watts: A majority of lights will be T-8 lights and each bank will generally have 4 of them. A single bank of 4 T-8 lights uses about 140 watts. To get total watts, multiple the total number of banks turned off by 140;

Number of hours the light is on: Assume that each light is turned off around 7PM and stays off until Sunday evening at 7PM (which is when the custodial staff cleans). Therefore, that is 48 hours that light would have stayed on. Adjust this number if it's different on your campus;

Cost: Check with your campus facilities to find out how much you pay for electricity. It will probably fall in the range of \$0.08 - \$0.15/kWh). Price of electricity by state can be found [here](#).