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A Proposal for Energy Reduction Competitions at Simon's Rock



Energy saving competitions—especially in dormitories—have recently gained popularity among many conservation-oriented colleges and universities across the country. These programs are simple in that they essentially provide students with information on the amount of energy they consume, methods to reduce that consumption and additional motivation to do so.

As my thesis, I will construct a proposal for such a program to be implemented in the residence halls here at Simon's Rock. In order to carry out such a program, it would be necessary to install individual electricity meters in all participating dormitories (except for Kendrick which already has an individual meter). Therefore, the first part of my project is to investigate which meters to install and the cost associated with buying and installing them. Using energy savings estimates, I will also calculate the payback time of this investment.

The second part is to educate students on the importance of conserving energy and providing them with feasible strategies to do so. This will involve creating a base of educational resources, which would provide background on both global warming and practical measures students can apply to life in a dorm to reduce energy consumption and, thus, their carbon footprints. This could manifest itself as, essentially, a lesson plan which could be incorporated into a few hours of Workshop Week, or at some other point at the beginning of the semester.

Finally, I will outline how to implement the program. This will include when to conduct competitions, how long the competitions should be, and what incentives will be provided to students. It also entails planning who will physically check the meters, and how often they will be checked as well as how to display the consumption information so that it is highly visible on campus.