

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

October 15, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Campus Community

FROM: Fred L. Poston, Vice President for Finance and Operations and Treasurer

RE: **Energy Conservation**



Budget concerns continue to challenge us to assess all elements of our operation. Energy conservation will be critical for the university to reduce costs. In fiscal year 2008, Michigan State's fuel budget increased by nearly \$10 million. Although fuel costs fluctuate, the main driver of last year's increase was an upsurge in electrical energy use.

Because the university produces nearly all of its own power, we are working on ways for the MSU community to conserve and become more efficient. Teams of faculty, staff, and students have been researching methods to reduce consumption. Currently, MSU construction projects are being built to LEED standards; retro commissioning teams are making buildings systems more efficient; new lighting technologies on campus reduce energy consumption; and alternative fuels will help reduce use of coal. With these changes, our campus has been successful in slowing the rate of energy consumption; however it still continues to grow.



OFFICE OF THE
**VICE PRESIDENT
FOR FINANCE
AND OPERATIONS
AND TREASURER**

Fred L. Poston
Vice President

Michigan State University
412 Administration Building
East Lansing, MI
48824-1046

517/355-5014
FAX: 517/353-6772

With more than 55,000 regular "residents" at MSU, tremendous power rests within the campus community to make a difference if we work together. Small, but smart decisions in energy use can make significant changes that both reduce costs and impact on the environment. It is no longer simply a good idea to conserve energy, it is a necessity. The university can no longer afford ever-increasing energy costs.

Environmental stewardship programs will continue to increase energy efficiency at the power plant and within buildings; however without significant behavior changes, those efforts will be muted.

I am therefore asking all faculty, staff, and students to reduce energy consumption by doing the following:

- Purchase Energy Star equipment and appliances whenever available and applicable

- Turn off and unplug equipment (computers, printers, iPods, cell phone chargers, etc.) at night, during the lunch hour, and or anytime they are not in use
- Turn off lights in all unoccupied spaces, unless required for safety purposes
- Leave personal appliances (e.g. space heaters) at home
- Work with your department's environmental steward to make specific changes in your unit to reduce energy use

These efforts, combined with the changes being made at the power plant and within buildings, should reduce electrical energy consumption by approximately nine percent per building. With more than 500 buildings on campus, this would result in a significant positive impact on energy conservation and cost containment. With your help, we can truly be Spartan Green.