

## April—Lighting



Gunnison County recently installed occupancy sensors throughout many of the County facilities. This month, the Green Team would like to focus on reducing costs by changing our habits related to lighting.

Facilities & Grounds would like you to be aware of the functioning of the new occupancy sensors. Most offices either have a traditional switch with a infrared sensor that turns the lights off if no movement is detected, or there are occupancy switches that turn lights off if no movement is detected but can also turn lights on when the sensor detects occupancy.

The lights will turn off automatically after 20 minutes if no motion is detected or they can be turned off manually and they will stay off until 5 minutes after the last occupancy detection, at which time it reverts to auto on mode. This prevents the lights from turning ON automatically after they were deliberately turned OFF. The time delay for turning lights OFF is preset at 20 minutes of inactivity and can be set to 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, or 30 minutes. The sensors also have a sensitivity adjustment if it is detecting movement outside of the desired area.

Here are some things you can do in your office to reduce energy costs:

- 1) **CONTINUE TO USE LIGHTS SWITCHES** when leaving your office as normal instead of relying on the occupancy sensors.
- 2) Notify Facilities and Grounds [maint@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:maint@gunnisoncounty.org) if your occupancy sensors are turning lights on during inappropriate times, you would like to change the settings as listed above, or the sensors are otherwise not functioning correctly.
- 3) Remove some of the light bulbs from the fixtures in your office. This can also help reduce eye strain in the office. Please let Facilities & Grounds [maint@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:maint@gunnisoncounty.org) if you are interested.
- 4) Remember to turn off task lighting at your desk when not in use.



In order to become eligible for this month's \$50 drawing, send an email to the Green Team [GTeam@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:GTeam@gunnisoncounty.org) by May 1, 2011 stating:

- 1) What steps you have taken to reduce energy usage related to lighting in County buildings, or
- 2) What innovative, new idea you have related to reducing lighting costs in county facilities.

### EARTH DAY—APRIL 22

Earth Day is coming up on April 22nd! This day is a perfect opportunity to change some of your habits to help protect the environment. Here are some easy and inexpensive ideas for celebrating this holiday:



- 1) Start recycling at home and at work—if your trash service is a pay-as-you-throw rate schedule, you might be able to reduce your monthly bill!
- 2) Start a garden.
- 3) Start riding your bike to work on the nice, spring days.
- 4) Plant a tree.

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