



COUNCIL OF COMMONWEALTH STUDENT GOVERNMENTS
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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C.R. 21-22.04

Implementation of Indoor Automatic/Occupancy Sensor Lighting

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Whereas, The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) represents the concerns of the students attending the campus in matters of a University-wide nature, as well as those issues impacting the combined interests of the campuses and,

Whereas, The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) recognizes Pennsylvania State University's push for personal energy reduction and light pollution reduction, such as signs in dorm rooms, classrooms, and other areas around the Commonwealth campuses to encourage turning off lights before leaving a room. Additionally, CCSG acknowledges the University's implementations of occupancy sensor lights within buildings, decreasing energy usage of lights. However, despite some occupancy sensor lights, there are multiple buildings across all campuses which keep their lights on at all times, throughout weekends and holidays.

Whereas, Transitioning to indoor occupancy sensor lighting in main, if not all, buildings across the Commonwealth campuses would significantly reduce the amount of energy produced by the University. Not only would this be beneficial to the environment but it would also be beneficial for energy savings. For example, leaving a single 60-watt light bulb on for 24 hours costs approximately \$0.20 a day¹. An alternative to these single 60-watt light bulbs are light-emitting diodes (LEDs). The existing 60-watt light bulbs should be phased out with LEDs following the end of their life cycle. While this is not a large investment on its own, accounting for the thousands of light bulbs across the University results in

¹ <https://www.electricrate.com/how-much-does-it-cost-to-leave-a-light-on-for-24-hours/>

hundreds of dollars wasted on energy a day.

Whereas, Alternatively, occupancy sensors turn on the lights automatically when someone enters a room and then turn off the lights shortly after the last person leaves the room. A study done by the Environmental Protection Agency monitored approximately 150 rooms over a 2 week period and found that occupancy sensors reduced energy waste by up to 68% and increased energy cost savings by up to 60%². Again, by multiplying that by the number of rooms that each Commonwealth campus has and over monthly periods, the University would see a dramatic decrease in energy costs and waste.

Be it resolved, The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments advocates for the Commonwealth-wide implementation of occupancy sensor lighting. Transitioning would decrease energy usage, resulting in less light pollution around University areas and less money spent on energy costs.

Respectfully,

Charles-Antoine Sokohl

Lauren Waer

Council Action

Vote __: __: __ Pass: X Fail: __ Postponed:

Presidential Action Approved: X Veto:

Date: November 6, 2021

² <https://www.nema.org/standards/view/demand-reduction-and-energy-savings-using-occupancy-sensors>