University of Central Florida



**KILL-A-WATT Competition**

**SPRING 2019**

Community: Libra: Brevard Hall

Created by: Christopher Menninger

KILL-A-WATT

Essay

It is very important to reduce electricity, and in some minds “wasting electricity” is just spending money. Living in the dorms removes responsibility from this mentality because of the flat housing fee. But this goes deeper then just the electric bill. There are many effects to the actions that we take, both now and in the future. Oil, which is used to create electricity, is not replenishable and we are eating away at our supply at a rapid rate. It is important to be cognizant of the resources that we use. It is not just money that we are wasting.

Some ways that my roommate and I contributed to the lowest Libra area’s electric consumption are lowering air conditioning usage and turning off the lights. Lowering air conditioning usage does not always infer raising the thermostat to 77 and leaving it there. Due to the timing of this competition, Florida’s climate was changing, which meant that there were several days where the temperature was hot and several days where it was cold. During the cold days, turning the unit to off or setting it to a lower temperature so that the heat would not turn on were enacted. While during hot days, the air condition was set at a higher temperature. During the months we spent in this residency, we consistently turned all the lights off when leaving the room. We also would avoid leaving on the sink light and only keep our bed lights on if we were occupying that space. Although this seems like a hinderance, the environment in the room maintained a calm and healthy feeling. Through all this it is an important note that electric usage goes further than that; it also encompasses the water we use for showers and to clean dishes. The hot water that we use for our showers is heated using electric and although that might not have been factored into the competition, we should strive to reduce our carbon footprint and to conserve our natural resources for the future.