
[4j_announce] Recharge, Restore and Unplug! Energy and Pest Reduction Steps for Summer

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Subject : [4j_announce] Recharge, Restore and Unplug! Energy and Pest Reduction Steps for Summer
To : 4J announce <4J_announce@4j.lane.edu>

Colleagues,

As you head into summer please take a few minutes to help us address our collective energy waste and pest prevention as well.

Energy: Our district spends nearly \$1.5 million each year for electrical power. Many devices continue to use a significant amount of electricity even when they are not in use. "Plug loads," the devices plugged in to wall outlets, typically account for 10–15% of our total energy usage.

Pests: An ounce of pest prevention is worth a pound of cure. In 4J we practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM), with pest control that revolves around sanitation and pest prevention. We strive to make choices that reduce the need to use pesticides.

Reducing power consumption and attractions for pests require only modest changes, but we need your help.

Before you leave for the summer, please:

- Unplug it. Anything that won't be needed in your absence, such as printers, copiers, battery charging devices, clock radios, etc., use a "phantom load" of energy even when they're turned off. Please unplug them for the summer. If you have a refrigerator in your area, please clean it out, unplug it and leave it open to air out during the summer.
- Take it home. Remove any personal appliances you don't need for instruction, such as electric teakettles, toasters, hot plates, and especially small personal refrigerators, which are notorious energy hogs.
- Pack it out. We all keep a few snack bars or more around for those times when we need a quick snack. These are very attractive to pests such as mice and ants. Before you leave for summer please clear your desks, drawers, refrigerators, and break rooms of all food, including food-based art supplies. It is imperative that no food is left for pests to find over the long break. (During the school year, it's best to have any food located off the

floor in a hard plastic or glass container with a snap-tight lid. Many pests can chew through cardboard boxes and plastic freezer bags.)

Saving energy and preventing pests naturally to reduce pesticide use is not only environmentally sound, but it's also good for our schools and our community, as reducing energy costs and pest reduction efforts will leave us more resources for the classroom.

Thank you, and have a great summer!

Ryan Spain
Director of Facilities
Eugene School District 4J

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