



5500 NORTH ST. LOUIS AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625-4699

To: University Community

From: Mark Wilcockson
Vice President for Finance and Administration

Date: November 7, 2005

Re: Energy Conservation Measures

On October 21, 2005, Governor Blagojevich ordered the lowering of thermostats in state facilities to reduce the state's winter heating costs. The Governor's Emergency Energy Conservation Plan calls for facilities to "lower daytime temperatures from 70-72 degrees to 68 degrees. At nighttime and during off-hours, facilities not open to the public or to employees working routine schedules will turn back their thermostats to 55 degrees." The plan does not apply to facilities housing vulnerable populations, such as our Child Care Center.

As most of you have read, heating bills this winter are expected to rise by up to 70 percent. At Northeastern, based on average natural gas usage over the past three years and current natural gas cost projections from the Energy Information Administration, our annual costs for natural gas are estimated to increase this year by \$500,000.

To comply with the Governor's directive and to help reduce Northeastern's energy costs, I am directing Facilities Management to reduce daytime campus thermostats to 68 degrees. Child Care and Campus Recreation (pool, showers, etc.) will be exempt. In addition, any temperature sensitive research needs or other special considerations should be brought to the attention of Ralph Zia (R-Zia@neiu.edu) in Facilities Management. Also, during this period, for reasons of safety and energy issues, we will continue to prohibit the use of space heaters except in those areas where the standard temperature can not be attained.

I appreciate the efforts of the University community to comply with this directive, be it dressing more warmly at work, opening window shades on sunny days and closing them at night or when it is windy outside, and making sure all windows are closed tightly.

Should you have any questions or if your work area is not maintained at 68 degrees, contact Facilities Management at extension 5240.