



Greening Committee Statement Endorsing use of Energy Star Appliances in College Housing

Muhlenberg College is committed to reducing negative impacts on the environment wherever possible and encourages all faculty, staff, and students to act responsibly and make environmentally sustainable decisions. In order to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as a college and to eliminate wasteful electricity consumption, the Greening Committee at Muhlenberg recommends requiring all appliances used in student rooms to be energy star certified. We are happy that residential services is able to offer EPA Energy Star certified microwaves and microfridges for lease or purchase to all incoming freshman. Additionally, we endorse a policy requiring any air conditioners to be Energy Star certified and we strongly encourage students to purchase other Energy Star products that they use in their rooms, including computers, monitors, cordless phones, and home entertainment equipment. Information regarding what products are certified and what the certification means can be found on the EPA's Energy Star website ([Energy Star](#)). Energy Star certified products use 10-60% less electricity than their non-certified counterparts. According to the EPA's Energy Star website, "simple actions can make a big difference. The average home has roughly two TVs, a VCR, a DVD player and three telephones. If these items were replaced with ENERGY STAR models, it would save over 25 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent to taking over 3 million cars off the road." Considering electricity usage in your purchasing decisions not only reduces your carbon footprint and your contribution to climate change, but also saves you money long-term as you take these items with you after Muhlenberg.