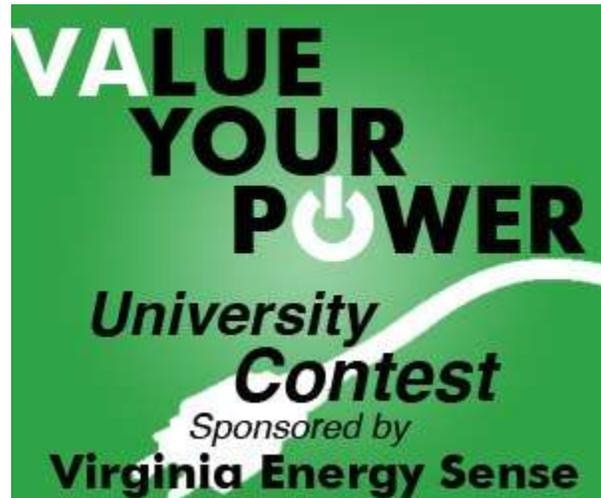


VALUE YOUR POWER

VIRGINIA ENERGY SENSE

Virginia Tech Students Win 'Value Your Power' Contest

To mark October's Energy Awareness month, Virginia Energy Sense challenged college students across the state to put their best ideas forward on how they could value their power. The three winners of the contest--Virginia Tech students-- Virquan Harold, Alison Sutphin and Samantha Searles, have a [few ideas](#) on how their school can help save energy.



Virquan says displaying real-time energy use will encourage more faculty, staff and students on campus to stop and think about their own carbon footprint.

Alison encourages homeowners to let Mother Nature help with energy reduction efforts by planting trees to reduce direct sunlight during summer months and block winds that increase heating needs in winter months which could help residents reduce energy use by 25%.

Looking inside structures, Samantha acknowledges university students are dependent on energy-consuming computers and servers. She recommends the use of innovative power management software that adapts to usage patterns and adjusts system power settings to reduce energy waste.

To learn more about these winning ideas to help Virginia 'Value Your Power,' visit our [Newsroom](#).



Virginia Energy Sense Showcases At Governor's Energy Conference

Virginia Energy Sense participated in the [2011 Governor's Conference on Energy](#) in Richmond, October 17-19, to spread the word about our role in helping the Commonwealth meet its goal of reducing electricity use by 10%. Many Virginia residents, businesses and organizations had the opportunity to

learn more about our program, view our [Public Service Announcement](#) starring Redskins' player DeAngelo Hall and pick up helpful 'At Home' and 'At Work' energy saving tip sheets. A number of organizations at the conference have signed on as Virginia Energy Sense partners and are already helping to spread the word to employees, students, families and friends.

Plans are underway for Virginia Energy Sense to participate in other events across the state. Do you have an event you'd like us to attend? Do you want more information about how your business, school or organization can become a Virginia Energy Sense [partner](#)? Email us at energysense@scc.virginia.gov.



Holiday Energy-Saving Tips

Whether you're hosting a big holiday dinner, traveling long distances to be with family or spending time at home with close friends, holiday activities can often mean increased energy use and higher utility bills. Here are a few energy saving tips to consider this season which may help put a few extra cents in your wallet just in time for gift giving:

- Waking up early to roast that turkey? Since the turkey takes several hours to cook, skip preheating and help your oven save energy where it can.
- Expecting a large crowd? Since more bodies translate into more heat, turn down your thermostat a few degrees. You'll keep everyone comfortable and keep your heating bill in check.
- Your refrigerator loses its cool every time you open the door. To save energy, and cut down trips back and forth, try gathering all your ingredients in one trip.
- If you're cooking side dishes or only entertaining a small crowd, consider using your microwave instead of an oven. Microwaves use up to 50% less energy than conventional ovens.
- When thinking about holiday decorations, consider making the switch to new mini lights or LED-powered ones. They are as much as 70% more energy efficient. Many older bulbs use up to 10 watts each!
- Compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs are great stocking stuffers. Year-round lighting accounts for up to 25% of a home's electric use.



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