

UCSD to save energy by cutting down use of lights

November 5, 1975

Twenty thousand fluorescent light tubes - producing enough energy to service 400 average homes in San Diego - have been removed from campus buildings at the University of California, San Diego.

Similar reductions in the amount of natural gas used to heat and cool campus buildings has resulted in the savings of enough gas over the summer months to heat 1,000 average homes in San Diego for a full year.

The savings are a result of the second phase of a campus energy conservation program initiated by UC San Diego to help overcome the energy crisis and the rising cost of natural gas and electricity. At the present rate the campus energy conservation program is expected to save the university over \$200,000 this fiscal year.

According to William Pettus, campus energy conservation coordinator, phase one of the conservation program was begun in 1973 when the energy crisis first became apparent, and resulted in a 15 percent reduction in the level of energy used at UCSD. Phase one consisted primarily of turning down thermostats and turning off lights when they were not needed.

"Phase two," Pettus said, "is intended to identify and eliminate wasteful uses of energy. Lighting, for example, that is not needed, is wasted. We have found that most campus areas are using more light than is really necessary.

"Energy conservation standards have been developed for the campus to reduce waste in the areas of lighting, heating and cooling," Pettus said. "We estimate that the campus target of a 25 percent reduction in energy use will be reached by the end of the current school year and that additional reductions of up to 50 percent might be achieved over a period of several years of continued effort," he said.

UC San Diego Chancellor William D. McElroy appointed a committee in March to make recommendations for a campus policy on energy conservation and to give guidance to the campus program. Pettus, as energy conservation coordinator, assists the committee in its work and provides a focal point for energy conservation matters on the campus.

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