

Green Impact Project Case Study

[SSiD's Big Switch Off Scheme]

Background

Institution: The University of Sheffield

Team Name: Student Services Information Desk (SSiD)

No. of years participating in Green Impact: 7 (since 2012)

Highlights

Please include 2-3 bullet points (of approx. 10 words each) which summarises your case study:

- Switching off to save energy.
- Reducing energy wastage over key periods throughout the academic year.
- Providing evidence throughout SSiD in order to reduce energy wastage when possible.

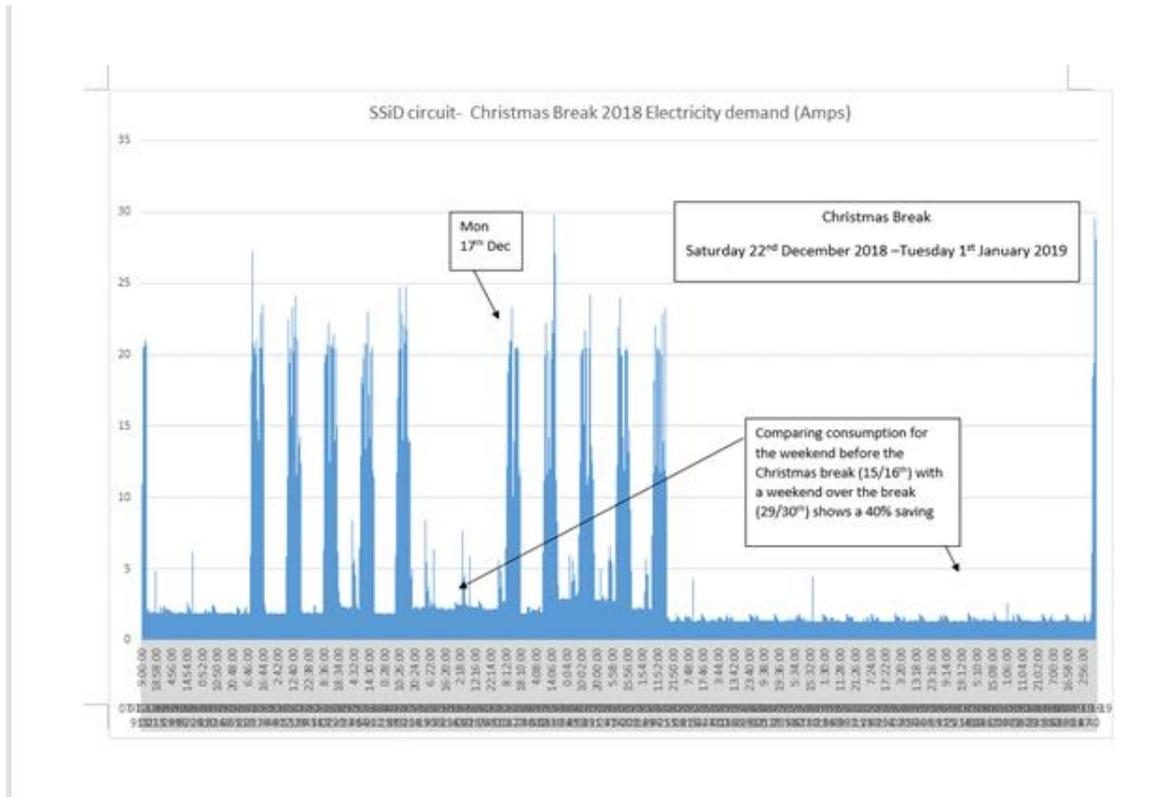
Description

On a daily basis SSiD uses a substantial amount of energy. From lighting to printing to using computers. One of the main aims of this project was to analyse whether a "switch off" scheme could bring about major energy reduction over a period of inactivity within SSiD. For this, we targeted the Christmas vacation period where traditionally SSiD would not turn off everything at the plug and would leave things such as printers plugged in at the socket.

This project was specifically aimed at energy reduction (for more specifics such as printing/copying see the recycling/reducing case study) – and proved to be highly successful (see the image attached). Over the period between Saturday 22nd December and Monday 1st January, there was a 40% reduction in the energy usage within SSiD. This has proven that alongside implementing "minor" switch off schemes over the weekend that a major energy reduction was successfully achieved through the Christmas switch off scheme. The aim of the project was to analyse the potential that the scheme could have on an individual department, with the aim now to expand this through a larger proportion of University/Student's Union departments in a coordinated switch off event.

Alongside implementing more hints (such as stickers near plug sockets etc.) SSiD now strives to carry out major switch off schemes at each key vocational period throughout the academic year.

Photographs



From the top, to left, to right:

- 1) A diagram produced by colleagues at EFM displaying the energy reduction (in electricity demand: Amps) during the Christmas vacation.
- 2) Information above some office light switches encouraging staff to turn them off when they are not in use.
- 3) Above every other light switch is a polite reminder to switch off at the end of the day.

Self-Assessment

This has been a "tester" project for SSiD and has proven to be immensely successful. Although not our strongest of the three projects run by SSiD during this Green Impact year, I believe it values a minimum of 35.

- 1) Team Engagement – Although not widely participated in its organisation, all staff have a role to play in ensuring its success through turning light switches off at the end of the day etc. – 3*
- 2) Reach – As an individualised project aimed specifically at SSiD energy reduction it has not had a significant reach as of yet. Though it did involve collaboration with members of EFM and with the aims to reach beyond SSiD in upcoming projects – 5*
- 3) Creativity – Although completed previously by other Green Impact teams this was a new project for SSiD and has proven to be highly successful – 4*
- 4) Impact and Measurability – The impact and measurability of the project relies on its statistical success. During the Christmas vacation, SSiD reduced its energy output by 40% and this has had a significant impact on further energy reduction work we have carried out throughout SSiD. Moreover, that it has completed the project aims of reducing energy as set out by Green Impact – 8*
- 5) Proportionality – The event has not been a one-off. With further reduction events planned for the Easter Vacation, and with the potential to expand this throughout other University/Student's Union Departments – 4*
- 6) Replication – It has proven to be an easy campaign to replicate. With the Christmas switch off paving the way for this to be carried out over the weekend period etc. – 5*
- 7) Legacy – It has provided a strong legacy for SSiD on what it has achieved/what can be achieved in future events. Although to achieve a true legacy it would need to be carried out in further events – 3*
- 8) Outcome – The project has been highly successful in providing definitive statistical data that backs the original aims of the project – 4*