Marlboro College Sustainable User’s Guide
Wait. Before you put your feet up with your first reading from Proust, you need to know a few tips that will not only make you way more comfortable but will also reduce your impact on Marlboro’s “carbon footprint.”

Lights and other electricity uses
Please turn off lights and other electronic items like stereos, fans, humidifiers, electric train sets, lava lamps, disco balls, rotating mobiles, etc. when you leave a room. Especially lights. There are occupancy sensors in some rooms, like bathrooms, but please don’t assume the light will go off by itself. Flip the switch or push the button for off. If you don’t need a light, because sunlight is enough or you enjoy stumbling around in the dark, don’t turn it on out of habit. If you notice there’s nobody in a room, turn off the light when you go by.

Heat controls
Everybody likes to be warm, right? To conserve energy as well as avoid pesky calls or emails to maintenance, here’s what you need to know about the heating systems on campus and controlling heat in your room during the cold months ahead.

• **Like most of us, heat needs space.** Of course space is at a premium in your rooms, but most radiators need a little elbowroom around them to work. Try not to block any openings in radiators or heating vents.

• **Heat takes time.** Give your radiators about 15 minutes to get warm before you panic. In Out of the Way, where the heat is in the floors, it will take even longer to get warm because the concrete needs to heat up as well.

• **Being cool also takes time.** If the room you are in is too hot, turn the heat down and wait for it to cool down. Try opening the door to the hallway, which keeps the heat within the building’s “thermal envelope” and will help heat other areas of the building. Opening a window is a total waste—using fuel to heat the great outdoors—so only resort to this after reading at least one of T.S. Elliot’s *Four Quartets*, and close it before you leave the room.

• **All heating systems are not created equally.** Out of the Way, Serkin, the library, Dalrymple and the new wing of Mather all have fancy, computer-controlled heating systems. Each thermostat has two buttons that raise or lower the temp by three degrees. If you need more heat or cool, you need to contact maintenance@marlboro.edu.

• All the Way, Halfway, Howland, Random North and South, Hendricks, Appletree, Gander, Perrine, Woodard, the pottery shed and the science building all have thermostats for each individual room. Some have a round dial, which you can rotate the to the temperature you want. Others display the temp are digitally and have buttons to raise or lower as needed.

• Happy Valley has hot air, no joke, and one lonely thermostat in the hallway controls the heat in all the living areas. Each room has an air vent, most of which have a way to close them partially or completely. You control your room heat by opening and closing the vent.

• Schrader has radiators with a knob on the side that is used to control the heat. If you turn the valve to position the snowflake by the red arrow you will close down the valve for less heat. If you turn the valve the other way you will open the valve and allow more heat.

Windows and doors
Vermont is known for its fresh air—which is free, but heat is not. It can be hard to remember to close a window you have opened when you are bolting from one room to another to get to classes or meetings, but try.

Please close windows you have opened. Check the entryways too. Propped open doors can make the heat come on needlessly. Open windows are a particular problem in buildings that can be affected by what is called the “Stack effect.” Dalrymple is a particularly good example of this: four stories, with heaters on every floor, in every room. Heat builds through the day, due to sun on the windows and classrooms full of warm bodies, and rises. It gets hot on the fourth floor, but when you open a window, some hot air goes out the window but more is sucked from downstairs. Cooler air comes in the basement and doorways, the heat turns on in those spaces and the warm air travels to the fourth floor again, making it even hotter. The same thing can happen in a building with only two floors. Check with your downstairs or upstairs neighbors to see if their windows are open or heat turned way up, which may be affecting your comfort level.
**Water and hot water**

Water is an essential most folks take for granted. We are lucky to be in a place where water is plentiful...for now. Here are some tips for water conservation.

- Turn the faucet off when you are soaping up your hands or brushing your teeth. Faucets spew up to 5 gallons per minute, so you can save some serious water by simply not letting the faucet run. Likewise, shut the shower off as you soap up, then turn it back on to rinse.
- We know that sometimes it takes a few minutes for hot water to show up at the sink or shower head. Please don’t walk away from running water and forget it is on, or pretend it takes half an hour to heat up when it is probably two minutes or less.
- Almost all of the hot water on campus is produced by an oil burner or electricity. The more hot water you waste the more fuel/energy you use, the more greenhouse gasses you generate and the more money you wash down the drain.
- Howland and the Total Health Clinic are the exception; they have solar hot water. But if you use all the water the solar panels produce, or it is a particularly cold, dark day, the hot water is heated by an oil-burning furnace (see above).
- Most laundry detergents claim to be just as good in cold water as in hot. Wash your clothes with cold. They should get just as clean as with hot and there may be less shrinkage and pink-colored white things.

**Recycling and composting**

Throwing away something that can be recycled or composted is like doing a research paper with only one cited source...not *really*, but it’s just as dumb. Marlboro generates tons of trash every month, much of which could be disposed of with less impact. Lists of what can and cannot be recycled are posted at the recycling areas inside the buildings, and in other conspicuous places. Take a look at how you can help reduce the amount of trash this campus produces, remembering these guidelines.

- Two small room-sized recycling bins have been distributed to each dorm, enough for each room. One is for paper, the other for recyclable containers. These personal bins in your room are your responsibility to empty and keep clean.
- Each building has a space to empty your personal containers...take a look around, it may be in the common area of the building, in a hallway, or outside one of the entrances to the building. If it is in the building and it is full, take a minute to empty it outside. The outside containers are emptied by our waste hauler, and then taken to the local recycling center, but he will not come in the building to hunt your recycling down.
- Cottages, cabins and married student housing have curbside recycling bins that will need to be put out for pick up on garbage days.
- Cardboard needs to be flattened. Please don’t just throw your empty boxes in the recycling bins. Flatten the boxes and place them neatly with the paper recycling.
- Rinse your containers before you recycle them. Your room will smell better and the person emptying the recycling won’t have nasty old liquids spilled on them.

When you’re done eating, don’t forget to feed the soil! All food waste except meat scraps can be composted. Paper napkins are fine, but paper cups and dishes are not. Compost is collected near the dish window in the dining hall. It is taken to the compost shed at the farm site (one of the dining hall duties) and is used on the farm. You can also bring compost directly to the compost shed.

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