

Switch it off!

Staff and students at the University are being urged to be 'energy-aware' in a bid to slash rising bills. The University spends around £4.5 million on energy and water every year — but an estimated £500,000 of that is waste, for example from leaving lights on in unoccupied rooms.

Energy Management Engineer Tim Rudge took up his post in February. He is keen to encourage individuals to cut the amount of energy each of us wastes each year by using resources more wisely.

"A lot of good work has already been done. Over the last five years, the University has invested heavily in modern gas boilers and computerised heating controls. However, what was missing was the ability to make informed decisions on where energy was being wasted, because we had not been keeping records for most of our buildings," said Mr Rudge.

"The major part of my first year has been spent on creating a database of energy and water consumption, so that we can accurately measure our

performance in future years and decide where further investment in new equipment is required. Although we have reduced our usage of heating fuels over the last few years, our electrical power consumption has risen by an alarming 15 per cent, principally due to the introduction of IT equipment. Buildings are being used much more intensively, with evening, weekend and holiday usage becoming more commonplace.

"I certainly don't mean by that that we should all sit in the cold with the lights out — people have a right to work in comfortable, well-lit buildings. What I'm talking about is eliminating needless waste and using resources more widely.

"The effort of each individual is significant — with many thousands of people on our campuses, any small improvements soon mount up if people make an effort."

Tim's energy-saving tips include:

- Report overheating to the Estate Office so the problem can be remedied
- Switch off unnecessary lights when you



● Main photo: Tim Rudge checking on electricity consumption. Inset: just one month's electricity bill for the University.

leave a room for a period of time — even fluorescent tubes

- Switch off your computer monitor when you leave the room — you can leave the base unit on it to be used later

For further advice on energy management contact Tim Rudge on ext 13583 or by e-mail at: tim.rudge@nottingham.ac.uk

New rehabilitation initiative launched at Derby unit

The University's Rehabilitation Research Unit based in Derby has obtained a further boost and continued recognition as a centre of excellence in specialist rehabilitation.

It has been awarded a contract of £135,000 a year for five years to establish the third National Disability Equipment Assessment Centre. The funding will be provided by the Department of Health through the Medical Devices Agency and was won outright in the face of competition from other centres. The centre will be run by the University's unit, in partnership with the Derby City General Hospital, the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary and the Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust.

It will provide a needs-led evaluation programme for the assessment of aids and assistive

equipment designed for people with disabilities. The centre will be staffed by a research co-ordinator, a centre administrator, a clerical assistant and by sub-contracted staff seconded from within the region. This will allow appropriate professional expertise to be recruited as necessary and will provide research and development opportunities for those involved.

The assessment centre's management group includes: Professor Chris Ward (University of Nottingham), Maeve Groom (Derby City General Hospital), Dr Lorraine Pinnington (University of Nottingham), Dr Christian Murray-Leslie (Derbyshire Royal Infirmary), Dr David Pratt (Derbyshire Royal Infirmary), Chris Bould (Derbyshire Community Health Services), Julie Spicer (Derby City General Hospital) and Philip Gerard (Disability Direct).

Universities boost UK economy, report reveals

Money spent on universities is money well spent, according to a recent report which shows investment in higher education has a major impact on the UK economy, boosting industry and generating wealth and jobs across all sectors.

The report, *The Impact of Universities and Colleges on the UK Economy*, reveals that in addition to fulfilling their core mission of education and research, universities serve as vital players in the economy:

- the higher education sector provides jobs, either directly or indirectly, for more than three per cent of the total UK workforce
- business worth £43.19 billion is generated across the economy by the higher education sector, which spends £12.58 billion on goods and services produced in the UK (equivalent to 2.1 per cent of UK Gross Domestic Product)

● in 1995/96 the higher education sector had an estimated balance of trade surplus of £1.3 billion. Every £1 million of total expenditure by higher education institutions generates £2.21 million of output in other sectors of the UK economy

Commissioned by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) and sponsored by business lawyers Eversheds, the research was conducted by Professor Iain McNicoll and colleagues from the University of Strathclyde.

"Universities underpin the UK economy. This report shows money invested in universities is hard working cash. Not only does it 'buy' education and high level skills for the nation, but it has a powerful knock-on effect, bringing wealth and jobs to other industries," said Diana Warwick, chief executive of CVCP.