Energy conservation is an issue we all care about. To keep our room rates as low as possible and comply with the state energy guidelines, we are required to maintain room temperatures to 68 degrees during the heating season and 76 degrees during the cooling season.

Resident rooms have individual thermostats which allow for a limited comfort range based on personal preferences. Both heating and cooling are controlled by the wall thermostat in your room. Sliding the bar, located on the right side of the thermostat, upwards will warm the room, while sliding it downward will cool the room.

If you come back to a cold room, you may have left your window open and you may have to wait for the building controls to respond in order to receive heat. Adjusting the slide control on the thermostat may not provide immediate change, as it will require an hour or so for the temperature to stabilize. It is important to keep your windows closed during unseasonably cool or warm periods, in order to conserve energy and maintain comfort for yourself and other residents.

Some helpful hints:
1. Help conserve energy through common sense habits.
2. Close your drapes or blinds at night.
3. Open your drapes or blinds on sunny days.
4. Don’t leave windows open.
5. Dress warmly.

Building temperature is regulated by a computerized temperature control system which is regulated by the outdoor ambient temperature.

All of our buildings receive steam from the U.W. Central Heating Plant. It’s used to heat water for hot water systems or to use directly. Smith Hall also receives chilled water from the central plant to provide air conditioning to the individual resident rooms.

At Smith Hall, hot water is pumped through a radiant panel located above the windows in each room. Air conditioning is supplied through a diffuser in your room, from a shared air handling unit providing cooling and ventilation to each “pod” of rooms on your floor.

Please share this information with your roommate.

David C. Wilson
HVAC Specialist - Advanced
University Housing, Smith Hall Facilities Staff