

## South Hall



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Built in 1873, South Hall is the oldest building on campus and currently houses the UC Berkeley School of Information. Student labs in the basement give 24 hour access to the PhD and masters students. Approximately 15 staff members in the building hold typical hours of 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The building's central location is a cause for frequent outside energy usage from Homecoming, Summerfest and other outdoor events. Also, there has been a PG&E light retrofitting grant in the building.

### General Appliances

There are several appliances used in South Hall. In the main offices we noted at least one computer per desk and one central printer that employees could access wirelessly. However, many cubicles also have their own personal printers despite the central printers. It was also observed that some computer monitors had been left on when not in use. We were informed that all computers are either shut off or put on sleep mode by the end of the day. In the computer labs many of the students have sleep mode on the computers. Classrooms and meeting rooms have big screen projectors and tvs that appear to be left in standby mode instead of completely turned off.

### Recommendations

- Consolidate workspaces with multiple appliances of the same kind (i.e. printers in front office). Use fewer individual appliances.
- Turn off power strips at end of work day. Look into partial-shut-off powerstrip devices: [tinyurl.com/ye5lml2](http://tinyurl.com/ye5lml2)
- Use proper energy saving modes (i.e. sleep) when equipment is temporarily not in use.
- Reduce brightness and increase contrast on computer monitors.
- Keep vents on computers clean and unblocked.
- Consider Energy Star and other energy saving technology when purchasing new appliances.
- Shut off projectors when not in use, or not intended for use for a long period of time.

### Thermal Comfort

Unfortunately the building does not give occupants access to control internal temperature, and the general temperature has not been comfortable. This is a result of the radiator system in the building. The student lab in particular has insulated pipes which increase the heat notably to make the area uncomfortably hot for students. Ceiling fans and personal fans have been used to relieve the heat in the basement area. Personal heaters and fans have been noted throughout the building.

### Recommendations

- Dress in layers for appropriate temperature.
- Open windows to regulate high temperatures.
- Talk to building manager in charge of radiator vents, to open and close vents as needed.
- Unplug fans when not in use.

### Lighting

The majority of the building has access to large windows and natural lighting, but overhead lighting is still used. Occupancy sensor lighting has been installed in several areas. It appears that very few task lamps are in place in the offices and student lab section. Also, during our daytime survey, we took note that the outdoor lighting was left on, along with a light in a naturally well-lit atrium (see photo on back). We have placed some stickers on lightswitches in the building to remind people to turn them off.



## **Recommendations**

- Utilize natural light as much as possible.
- Consider using half the overhead lighting if possible.
- Consider purchasing task lamps as a substitute to overhead lighting; ensure that task lamps are equipped with LED or compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Assign an occupant on each floor to turn off lights at the end of the day.
- Turn off lights manually when leaving a room.

## **Amenities**

There were a significant amount of kitchenette appliances in the student lab basement. The majority of appliances were plugged in even though not in use. The microwave was placed on a power strip and was utilized properly. There are two full-size refrigerators, one of which was almost empty (see photo on right). Also, there were excessive items on top of the fridges which makes them have to work harder to keep internal temperatures cold. The freezers appear to be defrosted properly. Other electronics (i.e. radios and chargers) were left plugged in.

## **Recommendations**

- Consolidate refrigerators if possible.
- Clear items from top of fridge (prevents higher energy use to generate cold temperatures).

- Unplug appliances after use, or put them on a power strip and turn off the entire strip when done.
- Continue defrosting freezer regularly.
- Place reminder stickers conspicuously to remind occupants to unplug appliances when not in use.



## **Further Resources**

- Keep stocked with stickers to prompt energy conservation. Visit the myPower Resource Center in 192 Barrows.
- Become a Power Agent: [bit.ly/PowerAgents](http://bit.ly/PowerAgents)
- Physical Plant Campus Services (PPCS) (510) 642-1032
- myPower office tips available at: [mypower.berkeley.edu/takeaction/office.html](http://mypower.berkeley.edu/takeaction/office.html)
- Get rid of old or underutilized electronics at Berkeley Overstock and Surplus: [businessservices.berkeley.edu/overstock](http://businessservices.berkeley.edu/overstock)