

March - 2024

Maintenance and Operations



WCU Geothermal Central Distribution System

WCU's geothermal central distribution system provides energy to heat and cool 14 buildings on North Campus including academic, residential, and auxiliary buildings or, in terms of square footage, approximately 52% of the buildings on North campus.

The system was constructed in phases beginning in 2006-2007 with the most recent addition being the new Science Engineering Center and Commons building.

In very general terms, the central distribution system is made up of three components: the well fields, the distribution system and the heat pumps in the buildings serviced by the system.

A single geothermal well consists of a 6" diameter hole drilled 500' deep. Currently there are total of 836 wells in 4 separate well fields located around the Pump House. The distribution system consists of a network of buried pipes extending throughout North campus. The pipes transport the water from the well fields to the buildings. The building's heat pumps cycle energy from the geothermal water to heat and cool occupied spaces in the building.

In terms of sustainability, the geothermal system is a true form of renewable energy that's resourced right here on campus. The installation and successful operation of this system allowed for the decommissioning of the coal and oil-fired boiler plant in 2014 which significantly reduced the university's carbon footprint. The associated reduction in total emissions allowed for WCU to be reclassified from a Title V permitted facility to a synthetic minor facility.

The continued expansion of the geothermal system will further reduce WCU's carbon footprint and highlight the university's commitment to further reduce emissions and increase its use of this renewable resource on campus.

[WCU Facilities](#)

Facilities Campus Services

West Chester University Public Notice

In accordance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements, West Chester University (WCU) prepared a **MS4 Report and Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP)**. The PRP was originally adopted in 2018 and is proposed to be revised. The revisions include Best Management Practices (BMPs) constructed and installed by WCU since 2018 and changes to the locations and types of BMPs proposed to be installed to meet the remaining permit requirements.

Notice is hereby given that beginning February 1, 2024, the plan will be available on WCU's [website](#) and a hardcopy may be reviewed in person at the Environmental Health & Safety Department at 823 S. High Street, West Chester, PA during business hours. The community is also invited to a public meeting on **Tuesday, April 23, 2024, from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM at West Chester University's Sciences & Engineering Center and the Commons (SECC) Room 101A.**

This Public Comment Period is an opportunity for members of the public to read and comment on the draft revised MS4 Report and PRP. Written comments may be submitted to Gary Ludwig, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, 823 S. High Street West, Chester, PA, 19383 or EHS@wcupa.edu through May 1, 2024.

Please visit the [Environmental Health and Safety](#) website for more information.

Environmental Health and Safety



Health & Safety

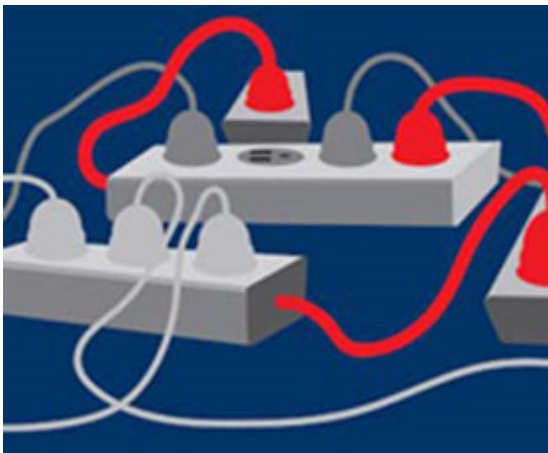
Electrical Fire Safety

Follow these electrical safety tips to help keep your home fire safe.



Outlets

- Do not overload wall outlets.
- Insert plugs fully into sockets.
- Never force a three-prong cord a two-slot outlet.
- Only one high wattage appliance should be plugged into any one outlet and only one power strip per outlet.



Extension Cords, Power Strips and Surge Protectors

- Never plug a power strip into another power strip.
- Do not overload power strips.
- Use power strips that have internal overload protection.
- Replace worn, old or damaged extension cords right away.
- Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched, like under a carpet or rug.

Appliances

- Always plug major appliances, like refrigerators and microwaves directly into a wall outlet.



- Never use an extension cord with a major appliance – it can easily overheat and start a fire.
- Unplug small appliances when you are not using them.
- Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that can burn.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.
- Check electrical cords on appliance often. Replace cracked, damaged and loose electrical cords. Do not try to repair them.

Report any issues to your dorm maintenance team. For more information and free resources, visit [WCUPA_Fire Safety](#) or [FEMA](#)

Please visit the [Environmental Health and Safety](#) website for more information.

Employee Spotlight



Barry Derr

Job Title, Department: Information Technology Technician, Facilities

What's the most exciting thing you are working on right now: Planning the implementation of the new version of TMA that will bring new functionality and an improved customer interface for submitting work to Facilities.

What's your favorite part of being an employee of WCU: Collaboration with colleagues who care

about their work while fostering a real sense of community.

What does your dream vacation look like: Island-hopping cruise around the Mediterranean Sea.



Sue Needles

Job Title, Department: Custodian, Custodial Department

What's your favorite part of being an employee of WCU: Over 26 years, I have met so many amazing people and watched WCU evolve. Buildings being constructed/renovated and the generations of student's we're educating. WCU has so much to offer for everyone who works here.

What do you love most about your line of work: I love cleaning. My mother (who also work at WCU) taught all six of her children the importance of cleaning. I want to keep buildings healthy and organized so that no one gets sick or injured. Walking into a clean environment helps people to relax and focus on their tasks.

Best piece of advice: From my mother: Take care of yourself so that you can enjoy your family and life; Keep your faith; and treat people the way you would like to be treated.

Promotions

RAM SWAP (Surplus



Property to reuse on campus)

The Surplus Property Manager and Facilities assist with the removal and redistribution of equipment an office furnishing which are unwanted by still usable. Ram Swap’s goal is to enhance sustainability efforts and receive maximum amount of value from a piece of furniture or equipment by finding re-use on campus. This platform is currently open to all Faculty and Staff.

[Surplus Property](#)



RAM SWAP – Item of the Month

RAM Swap offers an array of various items that WCU departments can utilize within office spaces. Currently, there are five like-new Frigidaire refrigerators listed on Ram Swap for use in kitchenettes. Dimensions for these refrigerators are H: 60” | W: 27 ¾” | D: 25 ½”. Check out Ram Swap to see all the items available.

[Ram Swap](#)

Key Reminders & Best Practices

Pest Control: WCU uses a licensed pest control service to monitor and prevent our most common pests, year-round. Our pest control contractor is on campus every

Wednesday to respond to service requests. For More information click [here](#).

Need to Submit a Work Order?

Work Control Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 610-436-2444