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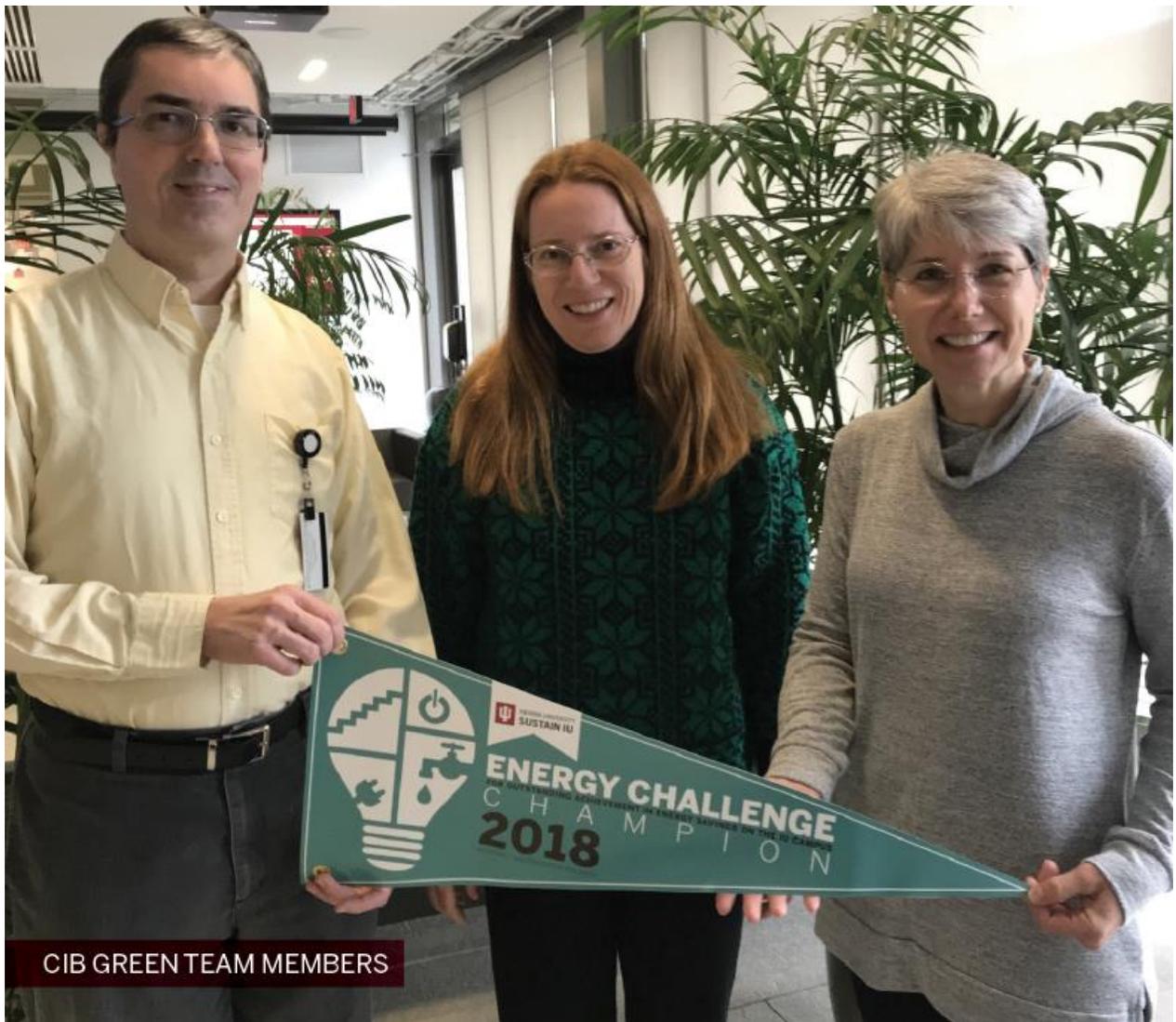
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**IU's Campus Wide Energy Challenge Crowns a Sustainability Champion**

*Nearly a million gallons of water and kilowatt-hours of electricity were saved in this annual event aimed at sustainable behavior change*

BLOOMINGTON, IND – The Energy Challenge a yearly competition, sponsored by Sustain IU, between various campus buildings to save water and electricity, encouraging Hoosiers to make small behavior changes for sustainable impact announced today total savings for the challenge. This year's savings, from the four-week event, totaled 877,416 gallons of water and 760,314 kilowatt-hours of energy, removing 566 metrics tons of carbon from our University footprint.



CIB GREEN TEAM MEMBERS

Big winners this year in the competition categories during the October 8-November 2 challenge include:

- **Academic + Administrative Buildings:** Cyberinfrastructure Building  
*87,000 gallons of water and 71,092 kilowatt-hours of electricity saved*
- **Athletic Facilities:** Cook Hall  
*77,733 kilowatt-hours of electricity saved*
- **Greek Houses:** Alpha Gamma Delta  
*75,000 gallons of water and 80 kilowatt-hours of electricity saved*
- **Residence Halls:** Campus View Apartments  
*293,000 gallons of water and 85,625 kilowatt-hours of electricity saved*

The overall campus winner is the Cyberinfrastructure Building, their combined savings accounted for nearly 35% of their energy use during the challenge and made up 9% of energy use and 10% of water use saving for the entire campus. A special shout also goes to Campus View, their water savings contributed to 33% of total usage!

“We couldn’t be prouder of our campus, and our collective impact,” said Ashlee Wilson Fujawa, sustainability specialist with Sustain IU.” Not only did we see savings during the challenge, but we were able to forge relationships with amazing groups in capital planning and RHA that will help us continue the conversation of sustainable behavior, campus wide long after the challenge is complete. This year, our interns worked closely with students at IUPUI to share resources and best practices to help them complete their first ever challenge—strengthening a university commitment to sustainability.”

This year’s challenge not only focused on savings, but engagement. Sustain IU hosted numerous outreach events for students and staff focused on sustainable decision making to lessen our collective impact. From creating a 21-Day Challenge Calendar for staff to build healthy habits, to educating students on the effects of phantom power; Sustain IU interns worked diligently to engage and communicate with new and familiar audiences during the challenge. Another addition this year included an online Sustainability Pledge, for signatories to declare what small behaviors they would commit to modifying to lessen their personal impact. With more than 100 signatures were collected, Sustain IU will use this data to craft programming focused on these commitments into the next semester.

“We are thrilled to see so many people sign the pledge and truly lean into a commitment of sustainability,” said Fujawa. “We look forward to working across the university to develop targeted events and outreach activities to help us all move the needle together.”

### **How the Challenge Works**

Campus buildings are grouped by similar use during the competition; ranging from athletic buildings, to administrative offices, to dorms. Before the competition begins, a baseline of water and electricity is measured. Progress is tracked throughout the competition and the winner is determined by percent reduction against their OWN baseline.

Participants are encouraged to visit [energychallenge.iu.edu](http://energychallenge.iu.edu) to sign the *Sustainability Pledge* to learn tips and tricks for clinching the win for your building—from info on making your office green, to laundry advice for saving money and the planet. The challenge ended November 2, with a public winner’s announcement tonight, November 8, at event co-hosted with the RHA Eco-Reps, *Do It in the Dark: Black Light Bingo*. More details on the [Sustain IU Facebook](#) page.

### **About Sustain IU**

Sustain IU seeks to encourage every Hoosier to play a role in creating a living legacy, committed to a sustainable future for all. Each year, we work with hundreds of students, faculty and staff, on numerous programs to encourage a thriving campus. Learn more about IU’s commitment to sustainability by visiting [sustain.iu.edu](http://sustain.iu.edu), or by following us on social media at @SustainIU.

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