

Electric Demand Response Program

20 May 2010

Since joining the [President's Climate Commitment](#), Villanova University has engaged in a number of initiatives to decrease our impact on the environment. This includes designing and building sustainable facilities that are [LEED](#) certified, conducting an energy audit and pursuing projects to reduce campus energy use.

In an effort to further Villanova's commitment to environmental sustainability, the university will be participating for the first time this year in an energy curtailment program designed to reduce electric demand during the peak electric usage days of the year. The program is organized by [PJM Interconnection](#), the organization that manages the electric grid in PA, NJ and 11 neighboring states. The Demand Response program (also known as load response) involves customers reducing their use of electricity in response to power grid needs or economic signals from a competitive wholesale market.

As part of this initiative, Villanova may be asked to reduce our electric use for a specified period of time. While up to ten of these reduction events may take place during the year, an average of one or two events have occurred in past years. They typically occur in the afternoon of the hottest days of the year, or when major power plants experience unplanned shutdowns.

Villanova will receive notification from PJM one hour prior to the event and will send an e-mail to the Villanova Community asking for your cooperation in reducing electric usage in any way that you see fit. This could include turning off lights and appliances and air conditioners, or increasing the air conditioner temperature in your spaces by a few degrees. While these may seem like small steps, they can absolutely make a difference in helping the university to reach its goals. Each department is encouraged to discuss this in advance and have a plan in place that can be activated when a curtailment event is announced.

The benefits of this program are both environmental and financial, with Villanova receiving a small fee for participating in the program, plus avoiding the cost of electricity that is not used. By helping Villanova to reach its energy reduction goals through this program, you will be helping the local and global environment, as well as aiding in avoiding potential blackout or brownout conditions throughout the entire PJM service area. Thank you for your cooperation in aiding the University in its efforts to be good stewards of our environment.