SWITCHING OVER THE AIR SYSTEM IN THE RESIDENCE HALLS

How does the air handling system work?
The residence hall air handling system is centralized for each residence hall. Therefore, the entire hall must be switched over from hot to cold air or cold to hot air at one time. There is not in-between. The air switchover is an involved process that entails several phases before you will notice the change in air temperature in your room. These phases include: prepping lines, cutback on chill/hot water flow, and activating/de-activating boilers and air conditioning units.

When does Facilities Management switchover the air?
Because of the cost and manpower required to switchover the air handling system, the switch-over only occurs twice per year. The switchover from cooling to heating typically occurs in mid-October. A weather pattern of 55 degrees and falling for seven consecutive days and a fifteen (15) day forecast are used to determine the time for the switchover to heat. The switchover from heating to cooling typically occurs in late April. A weather pattern of 60 degrees and rising for ten consecutive days and a fifteen (15) day forecast are used to determine the time for the switch-over to air conditioning. Also factored into these determinations are humidity and precipitation levels. Facilities Management will typically select a day towards the end of the range for the switchover.

What can I do if I’m too hot or cold?
Because every individual has different temperature preferences, some residents will inevitably experience some displeasure with the temperature during the transitional weeks in the spring and fall when weather patterns are stabilizing. During this period of time, you should utilize your windows, electric fans, blankets, or adjust your clothing choices as appropriate. Please remember, however, that individual air-conditioners and heating units are not allowed for electrical and fire safety reasons.

Have more questions?
Speak with your Resident Assistant or Resident Director. They can provide feedback to Facilities Management.

What happens during the switch-over?
During the air system switchover, every individual air unit in student rooms must be manually adjusted. Approximately 48 hours prior to the air system switchover, Resident Assistants will post notices in the building to let you know they will be entering student rooms to perform the adjustment. The process involves turning a special key in your air unit and is quick and clean.