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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Lights Out! Program Begins This Week

OVERLAND PARK, Kan.—January 30, 2012—Energy Solutions Professionals (ESP), an Overland Park-based energy service company, and the KU Center for Sustainability are preparing to roll out their **Lights Out!** energy saving contest on February 1. The contest is a competition between the occupants of three buildings on campus to see who can save the most energy over a twelve-week period. The buildings and schools/colleges involved are:

- Bailey Hall, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Green Hall, School of Law
- Summerfield Hall, School of Business

The program will kick off with a drive to get as many students, faculty and staff from the three buildings to take a personal pledge to save energy in their building. Those who do will be eligible for prize drawings throughout the duration of the competition.

Each building's energy savings will be judged against the amount of energy the building used last year during the same time period. At the end of the competition, the building that makes the greatest improvement wins a grand prize of a barbeque lunch for all the participants from their building.

ESP has been holding training sessions with the various departments in the buildings to prep them with ideas for ways to save energy. "The trainings have gone really well so far," stated John Geist, ESP's Energy Conservation Specialist. "It's invigorating to me to see the level of interest and enthusiasm that has been shown. I expect these groups to get pretty creative in how they cut down on their energy usage."

Items like lights, computers, printers and other office equipment are prime candidates for being turned off when not in use. Additionally, the buildings will have 13 watt CFL bulbs available to them so they can replace their existing incandescent bulbs. A CFL is around 6 times more efficient.

"We see this as a fun way to save money while reducing our resource use and greenhouse gas emissions," stated Jeff Severin, director, Center for Sustainability. "And although the competition is just twelve weeks, it will help students, faculty, and staff form habits that will help them continue to reduce their impacts."

The contest runs through April 26. More information about **Lights Out!** can be found online at [www.energy.ku.edu/lightsout/](http://www.energy.ku.edu/lightsout/)

The Center for Sustainability is a campus department at the University of Kansas that promotes a culture of sustainability in order to protect natural ecosystems, create economic prosperity and treat all people with equality and respect. The Center works across campus to support sustainable practices in operations, education, research, and campus life.

ESP is a privately owned, Kansas based, full-service energy solutions provider that addresses all aspects of client energy use through the Energy Efficiency Triad™—an approach that encompasses energy supply, facilities/systems, and human behavior. We remain product, vendor and commodity independent, and maintain streamlined operations in an effort to provide exceptional, cost-effective, value oriented services, or what we like to call *energy efficiency | simply™*.

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