

Heating information and guide for your residence.

Heating is an essential part of our health, well-being and comfort and at the UON we ensure that our students have access to both of these provisions.

Heating uses energy, the source of the energy we use varies at our different locations, but the primary fuel used is natural gas which is a fossil fuel. The UON has committed to being [Net Zero Carbon](#) its energy related emissions by 2030 and we are working round the clock to transition to low carbon and renewable energy technologies. For example, at Waterside approximately 90% of heat is supplied through our biomass boiler instead of our gas boilers, this significantly reduces the [carbon emissions](#) we generate each year. However, we need to do more, and we are, as technologies advance and we can decarbonise our heat. It is our responsibility to reduce our impacts on the local and wider environment which is why we have energy management processes in place to ensure that our students (and staff) needs are met, whilst also lowering our [carbon footprint](#).

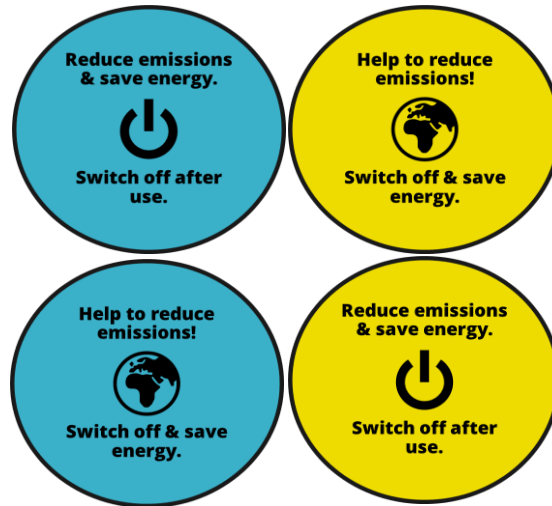
In 2022, we have been faced with a global energy crisis. This has caused energy prices to increase dramatically for everyone, at home, businesses and even Universities and schools. This means that we should all play our part in reducing energy where we can and increasing our awareness of what uses energy and how we can limit wasting it.

The UK has a temperate climate which means we do not generally experience extreme heat (although climate change is causing more frequent heat waves in the summer), our winters can feel cold, with temperatures ranging between 1 and 7 degrees between December and February¹. The weather is variable, so we must think about our own thermal comfort. Some people may feel warmer or cooler than others and so we must wear appropriate clothing for our own needs.

This guide is to help you understand how the heating in your residence works, and ways you can manage this or know who to speak to for further assistance.

The UON Switch Off

Keep your eyes peeled for our Switch Off stickers in your residence and across Waterside. Switching off electrical equipment after use is a great and easy way to save energy and reduce emissions. In your residence, you can switch off appliances such as kettles, microwaves and toasters at the plug and even your mobile phone or laptop chargers still use energy when they are switched on at the wall and not being used! These simple behaviour changes can go a very long way and help reduce energy bills in the future.



Heating guide for Halls of Residence

Waterside Student Village

Heating at Waterside is supplied by a ['District Heat Network'](#). This provides heating and hot water from the same system, unlike a typical gas boiler you might find in your home or other buildings. The main fuel used is biomass and natural gas is used to meet the full heating demand.

The temperature "set point" (the point in which the heating will rise to and meet before cooling back down) is 21°C. It remains at this temperature throughout the heating season (October – May).

You can control the temperature in your room and flat through adjustment of the radiator valve (pictured below).

If you need to lower the temperature or would like the radiator to be "off", you can turn the valve down to a lower number or zero. Some radiator valves at Waterside show a frost symbol, this is the equivalent of zero, it is not cooling.



Radiator valve in rooms. Simply twist it to the number you want, 0 = off
5 = warmest.



Radiator showing temperature valve in common area in flat.



Radiator in corridor showing a frost symbol on valve.

St Johns Halls

Heating at St Johns Halls is on a gas supplied District Heat Network. Heating is set to 21°C. Once it reaches this temperature inside, the heating will switch off until it drops below 21°C where it will then heat back up again. The heating will also not switch on if the temperature outside is above 16°C.

Your room will either have a thermostat like the photo below, or a radiator valve – also shown below. If you have a thermostat, you have control to adjust the temperature by approximately 2°C. If you have a radiator valve, you can control the temperature by turning the valve up or down, between 0 and 5.



Thermostat in some of the rooms in St Johns Halls.



Radiator valve. Turn this left or right to adjust the temperature up or down.



Radiator in communal kitchen area in the flat. This also has an adjustable radiator valve.

Scholars Green Halls

Heating at Scholars Green Halls is supplied by gas boilers, with hot water supplied by separate gas heaters. Heating is set to 21°C. Once it reaches this temperature inside, the heating will switch off until it drops below 21°C where it will then heat back up again. The heating will also not switch on if the temperature outside is above 16°C Heating times, when it comes on and off, will vary during the seasons.

The radiator in your room has an adjustable radiator valve that you can control the temperature with by turning the valve up or down, between 0 and 5. The radiator valve is shown in the photo below.



Radiator valve on your radiators in Scholar Green rooms. Twist the valve left or right to change the temperate. The asterisk symbol shown in the second photo means 'off'.

If you experience any problems with your heating or hot water, for example, if it is not working, please email facilitieshelpdesk@northampton.ac.uk with your flat number and details of the problem.

For other sustainable tips around the heating or energy, please email environment@northampton.ac.uk.