

## TRU Space Heater Defeater Program

Are you a staff or faculty member who often gets a little cold sitting at your desk? Do you currently use a space heater to keep yourself warm or do you wish you had one at your desk? Then we have a program for you!

Introducing the *Space Heater Defeater Program* from the TRU Sustainability Office. We've borrowed this idea from School District 61 (Victoria), who's staff loved it so much they gave it a 98% satisfaction rating! We are working with the TRU Facilities Department to try to ensure that all staff and faculty have a comfortable and safe working environment.

We have 50 new seat heaters (see image) that we will give – for free! - to 50 lucky staff/faculty members. All employees are invited to sign up, however, please note for this initial trial period, priority will be given to employees who have an existing space heater. To participate:

1. Complete the [Space Heater Defeater Program Sign-Up Survey](#) prior to February 24 (we're asking you to do it so we can keep track of who gets a seat heater now and who wants one in the future, and to collect some basic data about current space heaters on campus).
2. Next the Sustainability Office will review all responses and randomly select names for 50 eligible employees. All employees who sign up but are not selected will be waitlisted and priority will be given when more units become available.
3. For employees who are selected that currently use a space heater, you must temporarily give up your space heater during a one month trial period while you test out the new seat heater (see below for details under *Who can get a space heater* \*)

Key information on the program: The 'Why, What, When, Where, Who and How'

### ***Why are we doing this program?***

For three main reasons

- Keep you warm at work -  
Based on responses from employees at School District 61, they found seat heaters did a better job of keeping them warm than space heaters, since they warm your body directly rather than warming the space around you.
- Reduce number of 'cold calls' that the TRU Facilities Dept has to field -  
Space heaters can easily confuse our heating systems and provide uncomfortable working conditions for your office neighbours. For example, if someone uses a space heater too close to a thermostat, the thermostat thinks that the entire space is warm and shuts off heating. This results in other people who share the space getting cold. These new seat heaters will not have this effect, and they can be adjusted to suit each person's needs.



- Save on Electrical Consumption and Reduce Fire Hazards - TRU is constantly looking for ways to reduce unnecessary energy consumption. These seat heaters use far less energy than traditional space heaters (50-75 watts compared to 1200-1500 watts). Also, there is a greater risk of a fire getting started with space heaters since they are far more powerful.

***What are these seat heaters all about?***

- Starts to warm your bottom and back in 1 minute!
- Three temperature settings
- Voted #1 in [Top 10 Heated Cushions of 2023](#) - Best Reviews Guide (See “Kingleting Heated Seat Cushion)” -

***When can I get a seat heater?***

- We hope to start giving them out the week of February 27.
- If you’re interested in getting a seat heater, the first thing you need to do is fill in the [Space Heater Defeater Program Sign-Up Survey](#).
- Once you get a seat heater, you can keep it for as long as you work at TRU.

***Where can I get a seat heater?***

If you are one of the 50 lucky people who’s name is selected from those who fill in the survey, we will arrange a simple way for you to get your seat heater.

***Who can get a seat heater?***

- Only TRU staff, administration and faculty members can get one.
- \* If you have an existing space heater, you must give it up for a one month trial period while you test out the seat heater. We will keep it in storage for you during this time. At the end of the month if you like the seat heater, then you must agree to A) take your space heater off of the campus if you own it, or B) return it to the TRU department that gave it to you, since the main point of the program is to *Defeat the Space Heater!* At the end of the month if you don’t like the seat heater and you want to resume using your space heater, then we will give it back to you.
- If you don’t have a space heater currently, you are still eligible to get a seat heater. For this initial trial period, priority will be given to employees who have an existing space heater, however, all names submitted through the sign-up survey will be recorded. Employees who do not receive a seat heater during the initial trial period will be waitlisted and prioritized when additional units become available.

***How do the seat heaters work?***

They attach to your desk chair and then you plug them in to keep your bottom and back warm, which helps keep the rest of your body warm.

Information on the Space Heater Defeater Program can be found here:

<https://www.tru.ca/sustainability/programs.html>

Any questions about the program can be directed to James Gordon, Manager of Sustainability Programs ([jgordon@tru.ca](mailto:jgordon@tru.ca); 250-852-7153)