

Announcement and information about energy saving and the expected measures

Dear University Citizen,

We published a joint announcement on 25 August 2022 to promote an environmental and energy efficient operation at BME. Since then, some fundamental changes in the external environment have taken place, seriously impacting BME as well. Among the energy sources, electricity prices increased by a factor of four, natural gas prices by a factor of seven and district heating prices by a factor of nearly fourteen in 2022. As a result, the University's annual energy costs will be expected to grow by HUF 2.5bn in 2022, and by over HUF 7bn in 2023, based on 2021 data, which was a year of moderate consumption due to the COVID pandemic. It means that while energy costs totalled at HUF 1.3bn in 2021, they are estimated to rise to HUF 3.8bn in 2022 and 8.4bn in 2023.

In line with the European energy saving measures, the Hungarian Government has also prescribed energy saving instructions in response to the changes in the energy sector and with a view to ensuring the country's security of energy supply. These limit the air temperature in a heated room to a maximum of 18 °C, and also impose a 25% reduction in natural gas consumption in a Government Decree 353/2022 (19.IX.) on the emergency operation of certain institutions. The Ministry of Culture and Innovation has required BME to prepare an energy saving action plan, in which investment and work organisation interventions leading to significant energy saving at an institutional level are specified.

Saving energy is our joint responsibility and an energy-conscious behaviour is a concern for every citizen of the University. Our aim is to join forces in developing and then consistently implementing savings and rationalisation solutions that will achieve the energy savings required by the maintenance provider and reduce expenditure. In addition, it is our shared responsibility to reduce costs through organisational measures at BME, through the sensible and energy-efficient use of the resources available to us, while maintaining the functioning of our University.

Reducing energy costs is our shared task and responsibility, which will involve inconveniences and require sacrifices from us all. Failing to do so would put the University's viability and our jobs at risk. Any suggestions or ideas to reduce energy consumption are welcome. Similarly to other universities, the following measures may be taken after the academic term: optimising and limiting the use of electrical equipment with higher consumption; reducing the use of energy for heating purposes by closing down all or part of the buildings and making better use of buildings that remain in operation; limiting the hot water service; rationalising the use of classrooms during the examination period; changing the timetable for the academic year, moving the start of the spring term to a later date.

In the coming weeks, we will use the data at hand to identify the concrete actions that will least hamper day-to-day education and R&D&I activities, and we will keep you informed.

We are counting on the cooperation of all university citizens to help us deal with the energy crisis.

Budapest, 12 October 2022

Dr. Tibor Czigány, Rector, Attila Kotán Chancellor

Find the Rector's and the Chancellor's joint announcement [here](#) on [bme.hu](#).