

LIVING GREEN

Education for a Healthy Future

January 2015

VOL #2 ISSUE #1



*Be the Change You Wish to See
in this World!*

~Gandhi

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DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE LIVING GREEN PROGRAM?

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VAMPIRE POWER

Don't Let Them Suck Your Energy!

Did you know that vampires are lurking in your house drawing energy? Keep these vampires at bay by following some easy tips.

Vampire power refers to electricity that is consumed by electronics and/or appliances while they are off or in standby mode. In 2014, the U.S. *Department of Energy* estimated an average home contained 20-40 devices that draw power.

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory defines almost any product with an external power supply, remote control, continuous display or charges batteries will draw power continuously. For example, your coffee maker, cell phone, chargers, laptop computer, printer or lamps can turn out to be vampires. Many times you need to use a power watt meter to determine what items fit this designation.

So, what can you do to keep the vampires at bay? You can unplug those devices that you don't frequently use. Use power or smart energy strips for clusters of computer or video products that cut all power to all in one step. When you are purchasing any new devices look for Energy Star labeled home electronics.

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ELECTRONIC WASTE

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Did you purchase any electronics this year? Around the world 20-50 million metric tons of electronics are discarded annually! Of that total, only 29% is recycled and the rest ends up in landfills or incinerators.

(Electronics Takeback Coalition, 2014) When these devices are disposed of they become hazardous waste that exposes the air, ground and water to high levels of lead, cadmium, mercury and other materials.

Washington State in 2009 started the "E-Cycle" program that allows households and many other entities to recycle electronics free of charge. In just seven years Washington residents have recycled over 249 billion pounds of e-waste.

Before you go and purchase an electronic device ask yourself the three R's:

REDUCE

Can you repair the old one?

Check out ifixit.com to determine if you could perform the repairs yourself.

REUSE

Can anyone reuse it?

Find out if local charities or non-profits have a need for the device.

RECYCLE:

Where can you recycle it?

Visit 1-800-recycle website or call 1-800-732-9253 to find an e-cycling location near you. Most locations accept TV's, computers, monitors, laptops portable DVD players, and e-readers.

Computer peripherals such as keyboards, mice, and printers are not included, but you can recycle at Best Buy, Radio Shack and Staples stores.

NOTE: Wipe all personal data off of the device.

Vampire Power Resources:

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

<http://www.lbl.gov/>

Department of Energy

<http://energy.gov/>

International Energy Agency

<http://www.iea.org/>



Cell Phones in Landfill

~ Photo by Chris Jordan

E-WASTE RESOURCES:

E-Cycle Washington

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eproductrecycle/>

Electronics Takeback Coalition

<http://www.electronicstakeback.com>

E-Stewards

<http://e-stewards.org>

Basel Action Network

<http://www.ban.org/>

Electronics Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) <http://www.epeat.net/>

LIVING GREEN FOR 2015!

STAFF FAVORITE

The U.S. makes up 5% of the world's population but consumes 30% of the world's resources and creates 30% of the world's waste.

(2007, *Story of Stuff*)

In 2007, Annie Leonard published "*The Story of Stuff*" that exposed environmental, social and economic implications of our world's consumer culture. *The Story of Stuff Project* was formed a year later based on public interest to act. On the website you can find videos, a discussion board, curriculum and resources help make a change in your community.

Visit the Story of Stuff Project:

<http://storyofstuff.org>

Check out the video regarding **electronics**:

<http://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-electronics/>



Kill A Watt Meter

KILL-A-WATT METER

Are you curious about how much electricity various appliances use in your home? If you are curious, you want to get a "Kill-A-Watt" meter. You can order online, check out from select county libraries or purchase one at a local hardware store.

The results of using this meter means that you can measure how items consume electricity and decide how you can save money on your energy bill.

When you use electricity to power your appliances and electronics they use watt-hours. One thousand watt hour(s) equals (1) kilowatt-hour (kWh). A typical U.S. household consumes about 11,000 kWh per year. To find out how much electricity costs, look at your recent bill and locate how much (1) kWh costs.

Once you have the meter you can measure electricity use for appliances that are turned on and off. Plug the meter and appliance into a wall outlet. Read the meter when the appliance is off to determine if it is drawing energy. Note how many watts are listed on the meter. Next turn the appliance on and watch the wattage increase. Once you learn the watts consumed, you can calculate how much it costs to run the appliance for hours, days, weeks or even months. The longer you leave the appliance plugged into the meter, the more accurate the measurement will be.

To find out monthly consumption and pricing, you may use this formula: (Using an example of 99.7 kWh for 672 hours.)

1. 99.7 divided by 672 = 0.1483631 (average instantaneous kilowatt consumption)
2. 0.1483631 multiplied by 720 (hours in a month) = 106.82143
3. 106.82143 multiplied by 0.06 (6 cent rate from electrical co.) = 6.4092858
4. Total cost to run this unit for 1 month is \$6.41



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This publication is funded in part by grants from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

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