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# Green Tips

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*Turn off your computer monitors if you're leaving them for a prolonged period of time!*

- Electronics and appliances make up roughly 20% of your monthly utility bill. (source: [http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your\\_home/appliances/index.cfm/mytopic=10020](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/appliances/index.cfm/mytopic=10020))
- Even when they are not turned on, many electronics continue to use energy in “ghost” modes. Televisions, computers, stereos, and DVD players continue to use a few watts even when turned off.
- For any given appliance, the cost of this energy seems marginal and probably costs less than \$5 per day, but when considering the many appliances in homes and offices across the world that are using this energy around the clock, a watt here and a watt there quickly adds up.
- Unplugging or using a power strip to turn off electronics will ensure the appliance is not using any energy when not in use.
- The best screen saver is turning off your monitor. If computers employed sleep modes rather than screen savers, Americans would save \$2 billion per year, and take the equivalent of 5 million cars off of the road.
- Changing your computer settings is easy; from your start menu, select control panel, then display, then the screen saver tab. Select the power settings mode, and select the turn off monitor or power save mode. If your computer doesn't support a sleep mode, simply turn off your monitor if you will not be using it within the next 10-15 minutes. (source: [http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your\\_home/appliances/index.cfm/mytopic=10070](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/appliances/index.cfm/mytopic=10070))

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