

Greening Action for December and January:

Unplug electronic devices when not in use

Virtually all of our electronics are sucking up energy when they are plugged in, even if they're turned off or not being used. Some of the biggest culprits include our computers and printers. Even an electric toothbrush is drawing energy when it's plugged in and sitting idle.

On its own, this wasted power used by one device may seem insignificant, but collectively it amounts to millions of dollars a year of wasted energy. With many home electronics, more electricity (than is used to actually power them) is consumed while the products are turned off.

The easiest (and most obvious) thing we can do is get up right now and unplug whatever we're not using. Candidates include:

- computer and cell phone adapters and chargers
- printers
- computer routers
- small hand-held vacuums in their charging stations
- electric toothbrushes
- automatic coffee makers
- and more

To facilitate this new green habit, it can be helpful to have one or more power bars that can easily be turned on and off. This simplifies the cutting of power with just the flip of the power bar switch.

Mindfully reducing our use of energy is not only respectful of our use of the planet's natural resources but it is also one of the easiest ways to save money on hydro bills.