

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Energy-Saving Tips on Computers and Peripherals

Does turning off the Department's electronic devices such as computers, printers, network equipment, etc. save energy and money?

To help keep energy cost low, the ODNR-Office of Information Technology continues to purchase equipment from vendors who participate in the Energy Star program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Products that qualify for this program must meet energy guidelines in three operating modes: standby, sleep mode and when the equipment is being operated. CRT monitors are being replaced with flat panel monitors that use 1/3 less energy.

Myths regarding computers and energy saving

- **Turning your PC off uses more energy than leaving it on.** Not true. The small surge of power you use when turning it off -- which varies per PC make and model -- is still much smaller than the amount you use in keeping it on for lengthy periods.
- **Turning your PC on and off wears it out.** A decade ago, there was something to this, but not today, according to Graig Hershberg of the US EPA. It used to be that PC hard disks did not automatically park their heads when shutting off, and that frequent on/off cycling could damage the hard disks. Today's PCs are designed to handle 40,000 on/off cycles before a failure, and that's a number you likely won't reach during the computer's five-to-seven-year life span.
- **Screen savers save energy. Not true.** Screen savers, at a minimum, can use 42 watts; those with 3D graphics can use as much as 114.5 watts, according to Don McCall, a Dell product marketing manager who does power measurement studies for the PC manufacturer. "It's absolutely wrong thinking that a screen saver will save energy," he says.
- **Your computer uses zero energy when "off."** That's true only if it is unplugged. Otherwise, the PC utilizes "flea power," or about 2.3 watts, to maintain local-area network connectivity, among other things, McCall says. In "hibernation" mode, your PC uses the same 2.3 watts; in "sleep" mode, your PC uses about 3.1 watts. Monitors use zero energy when turned off.

Office of Information Technology Recommendations

The Office of Information Technology recommends, **turning off your computer and monitor, if you are going to be away from your desk more than 4 hours.**

If there are electronic devices in your work area that are inactive, we also recommend turning them off.


Additional electronic devices:

- **Standalone Computers**
- **Standalone Printers**
- **External Hard Drives**
- **Scanners**



How to activate your Monitor's Power Saving features:

If you would like to use the energy saving features of your monitor then:

- **Right click** on the MS Windows XP/2000 desktop, and click on **Properties**,
- Click on **Screen Saver**
- Click **Power** under Monitor power.
- Select **30 minutes**, under the Turn off monitor option.



CPU



A standalone computer and/or printer does not have access to a network nor is it **being used** as shared device among other computer users.