

8 April 2008

HCIJO Update: Green Tip #4 – Power down your computer

Dear Friends,

Believe it or not, the average desktop PC wastes nearly half the power delivered to it. This wasted electricity translates to unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions and higher energy bills. Improving the energy efficiency of computers is a smart way to fight climate change and save money. Here are a few suggestions from the *National Geographic* and *Climate Savers Computing* websites.

1. If you have a desktop computer with an old-cathode ray tube (CRT) monitor, consider replacing it with a liquid crystal display (LCD) screen. A 14-inch (35-centimeter) LCD monitor uses up to 75 percent less energy than a 14-inch CRT monitor.
2. Choose a laptop computer over a desktop. Laptops can provide annual computer-related energy savings of as much as 50 percent over a desktop.
3. Whatever type of computer you have, enable the “Power Management” features that put the computer in “sleep” mode after a period of inactivity. A simple touch of the mouse or keyboard “wakes” the computer, hard drive and monitor in seconds. Instructions for enabling power management vary by operating system; for easy to follow instructions for your computer, go to www.climatesaverscomputing.org/tools/pwr_mgmt.html.
4. Turn off computers and peripheral devices that are not being used for an extended period of time such as overnight. Plug all your electronics into one surge protector, so you can easily switch them all off when you leave the room or go to sleep. Most power supplies (including cell phone chargers) continue to draw power and generate heat even when not attached to a device.

Thanks for considering these simple actions – together we *can* make a difference!

In peace,

Mary