

Beware of the phantoms in your office



A "phantom load" is any appliance or electronic gizmo that uses energy even when turned off. Some people call them "vampire appliances" or "energy vampires." Many electronic devices stay on, even when they're "off." Chargers for cell phones, digital cameras, and other gadgets draw energy even when they're not in use. Appliances like televisions, computers, monitors and DVD players can also draw power whenever they're plugged into an outlet.



These 3 plugs demand 5 watts of electricity, but they are not even plugged into any electronics.



You can help GRCC reduce the financial and environmental impact from these "vampire" appliances. If possible, unplugging devices is the simplest way to solve the problem, but can be a hassle. Plugging some of your devices into a surge protector that can be clicked on and off can make things easier.

Here are some clues to identify your energy suckers at home: They're appliances with remote controls, such as TVs, VCRs and audio equipment. They feature a continuous digital display -- like those glowing clocks on stoves. They feature rechargeable batteries, such as cordless phones (which use energy even after the battery is charged). And they're appliances with external power supplies, such as inkjet printers and iPod chargers.



For more information on GRCC's Energy Conservation Program please visit <http://www.grcc.edu/energy>