

## What To Do About All Of Your Electronics

Electronic products – like computers, TVs and cell phone chargers – take a significant and ever growing share of your home’s energy usage. The small green, blue and red lights that light up your home at night are all drawing power as they sit in the dark. A few tips for reducing their pull on your purse strings and your energy consumption:

1. Turn off computers, printers, TVs, and unused electronic chargers when not in use. According to Idaho Power, a computer uses 30% of its total power when it is powered down to sleep mode. A night in sleep mode may waste more power than a light left on all day.
2. When considering purchasing a new computer, look at laptops which use as much as 90% less energy to run.
3. Most computers have energy saving settings for both the monitor and the hard drive. Read your computer manual to find how to select these settings.
4. Plugging your electronic equipment into a power cord can make it more accessible for manually turning it on and off when needed. Any equipment that has a LED light shining or a clock as part of its face is drawing power whether you are using the appliance or not.
5. Battery and cell phone chargers are consuming an ever greater amount of home electricity, even when not being used. Reconsider which ones need to be plugged in all the time and which ones could be plugged in only when used.
6. Consider the energy needs when deciding whether to buy a new electronic device and not just the initial sticker price.
7. All electronic devices have materials or parts that should not be thrown in the landfill. Check with the local landfill to find out how you can recycle or safely get rid of your broken or outdated electronic devices.