

Phantom Load

CREATED BY YOUR STUDENT
SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION
COORDINATORS

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LINKS

www.eere.energy.gov/

nyenergychallenge.org/tips

glp.on.ca/news.html?ID=34

<http://www.energystar.gov/>

<http://www.energy.gov/>

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/>

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/>

www.consumerenergycenter.org

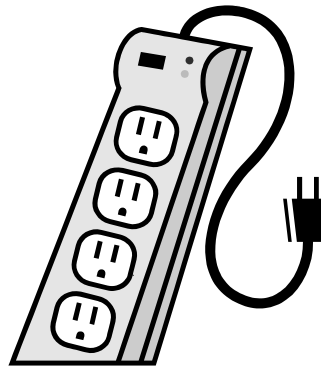
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Chances are, you've never heard of the term "phantom load." What is it and how does it affect you?

In a nutshell, the phantom load is the electricity consumed by a device when it is turned off. For example, your television consumes electricity as it waits for you to hit the "on" button on your remote. The clock on your uses up energy 24/7 to keep track of time. Devices that have a phantom load are sometimes called "vampires." These devices have a hidden energy cost that most people are never even aware of.

Nationally, phantom loads make up about six percent of our energy

consumption. This translates into billions of dollars spent and countless amounts of pollution emitted into our air. Obviously, phantom loads are a huge problem, especially as energy costs rise and our fossil fuel reserves near depletion.



SOME QUICK FACTS:

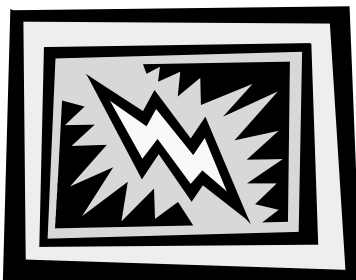
- Nationally, phantom loads make up about six per cent of our entire residential electricity consumption.
- A decrease of only 1% in industrial energy use would save the equivalent of about 55 million barrels of oil per year, worth about \$1 billion.
- If all phantom loads were eliminated, California would not have faced rolling blackouts.
- Number of cars necessary to produce the amount of smog-forming pollution that comes from U.S. coal power plants each year: **37,000,000**
- One study estimated that the phantom load from TV's alone was equal to the output of a Chernobyl sized power plant.
- Though accounting for only 5 percent of the world's population, Americans consume 26 percent of the world's energy.
- Worldwide, some 2 billion people are currently without electricity.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Unplug all devices when not in use.
- Alternatively, plug your devices into a power strip and turn the strip off when you go to sleep.
- Buy Energy Star® appliances to reduce your phantom load for de-

vices that would be impractical to turn off.

- Tell others about this phenomenon known as phantom load. Chances are, they've never heard of it either!
- Watch out for the cube shaped transformers that plug into the wall. These buggers are 60-80% inefficient when plugged in, so it is especially important that these are on power strips.
- Lead by example. If you start turning off your devices, maybe your roommates or family will too.



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