

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



OnCampus ecoAmbassadors

OnCampus ecoAmbassadors are college students who implement projects from EPA's partnership programs to help carry out the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. The program is open to ANY college student, regardless of program, age, or background. All interested students are encouraged to participate.

Did You Know?

- Standby power accounts for more than 100 billion kilowatt hours (KWh) of annual U.S. electricity consumption and \$11 billion in annual energy costs.
- U.S. households spend approximately \$100 per year to power devices while they are off (or in standby mode), roughly 8 percent of household electricity costs.
- Consumer electronics including audio, video, and telephony products account for 40 percent of low power mode consumption.

Learn More

To learn more about vampire energy, please visit these sites:

- www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=about.vampires
- <http://blog.epa.gov/blog/2008/10/27/qotw-what-are-your-energy-vampires/>
- EPA Audio PSA: yosemite.epa.gov/opa/MMWebCon.nsf/HTML/RRUO-7KPP48?OpenDocument

For more information about ENERGY STAR®, please visit: www.energystar.gov



ENERGY STAR Energy Vampire Event

Standby power is the energy used by some products when they are turned off but are still plugged into a power outlet. While this standby power sometimes provides useful functions such as remote control, clock displays, and timers, in other cases it is simply wasted power as a result of leaving an electronic device or power adapter plugged in. The devices causing this waste are referred to as energy vampires because these products are slowly sucking energy while not providing any useful function! By hosting an Energy Vampire Event on your campus you can teach fellow students about what vampire energy is, how to diminish vampire energy, and how using less energy can protect the environment.

Goals of an Energy Vampire Event

- Improve energy efficiency on your campus by diminishing vampire energy
- Educate students about the link between energy use and the environment
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

If You're Interested In:

- Helping to protect your environment in a simple way that adds up
- Planning fun events to get students interested in energy efficiency
- Meeting new people
- Empowering and motivating students to change their energy behavior

... then an Energy Vampire Event is for you!

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist for an Energy Vampire Event.



Students Taking Action

You're among the first ENERGY STAR Energy Vampire Event participants! There are many "hidden" electrical devices in our lives that use energy when they are not in use. The amount of energy used by products when they are in standby mode is significant. Standby power accounts for more than 100 billion KWh of annual electricity consumption. By participating in an ENERGY STAR Energy Vampire Event you can help reduce vampire energy in your school and your community!

An Energy Vampire Event is ideal for students pursuing degrees in business, communication, education, environmental science, engineering, and public policy.

Checklist for an Energy Vampire Event

Follow the steps below to conduct an Energy Vampire Event on your campus.

- 1. Find out what's being done on your campus.**
Talk with your school administrators, energy managers, and facilities team to learn what's already being done to diminish vampire energy and how your efforts might complement their ongoing efforts. Contact student environmental organizations, on- and off-campus housing offices, and resident life to learn if they are raising awareness on the topic.
- 2. Research vampire energy and what can be done about it.**
Every energy vampire you vanquish saves you money, helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and helps protect the climate. Check out the simple steps on the right to learn more about protecting your space from energy vampires.
- 3. Identify your audience and a place for an awareness event.**
Decide who you would like to target your message to. Most likely, you will be targeting other college students, but most people unknowingly contribute to vampire energy. Reach out to your professors and faculty as well. Hold your event in a visible area, considering places such as dorm lobbies, dining halls, and your student center. Make sure your location is accessible and relevant to your audience. Set goals for yourself and the event to make your efforts as successful as possible.
- 4. Prepare your Energy Vampire event.**
Decide what type of event you will host. Pick an appropriate date for your event (energy vampires and Halloween work well together). Be creative! Be sure to consider other events that may conflict with your chosen date and location.
Consider using watt meters at your event and have your fellow students take note of the watt readings for various common electrical devices while they are off and in standby mode. See additional details on the right about watt meters.
- 5. Gain support on campus.**
Use the information you have gathered to motivate students and other campus staff to join in and help reduce vampire energy. Consider asking local energy companies to donate time or resources to assist with your event.
- 6. Publicize the event.**
Use different media outlets to spread the buzz of your event. Create a Facebook event and invite your friends. Promote the event through catchy fliers and posters that draw people's attention. Make announcements in relevant classes or via class list serves (check with your professors first!). If possible, partner with relevant student organizations and campus officials to reach a larger audience.
- 7. Take photos.**
Take photos during your event and keep track of how many people that you talk to throughout the day. Share your photos on the OnCampus Facebook page.
- 8. Fill out your completion form.**
Record the information that you are required to report to EPA on the event completion form, including your name, date of the event, name of your college, a description of the event or events, the number of interactions (include any interesting comments), and additional comments.

Resources

Simple Steps to Save Energy

- Unplug power adapters or battery chargers when devices are fully charged or disconnected from the charger.
- Turn off devices when not in use.
- Use a power strip that can be switched off when devices are not in use.
- Enable power management on your computer.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR label when purchasing products.

Watt Meters

Watt Meters are easy to get at no to low cost!

- Borrow one from your utility company.
- Ask around to see if someone in your community will let you borrow theirs.
- Purchase one from a hardware or home improvement store for as little as \$30.

Tips for Successful Events

1. Find a suitable space.
2. Put up posters to advertise the event.
3. Create a Facebook event.
4. Ask friends to spread the word.
5. Plan to have snacks available – find out if you can get donations.
6. Arrange for music at the event.
7. Arrive early to set up the space, including snacks and music.
8. Use sign-up sheets to record attendance.
9. Create a written summary of the event.

EPA Contact Info

ENERGY STAR Hotline
(888) STAR-YES; (888) 782-7937

EPA OnCampus Team
EPAOnCampus@epa.gov

EPA OnCampus Websites

Visit the EPA website at
www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus



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