

# 6

# Stand-by Power Fact Sheet

September 2011

A publication of the Greener Houses Project - 2011



## Stand-by power, find your Phantom

Some appliances use electricity even when you think they are turned off. When they are left plugged in, even when they are not being used, they can be using power. This is called 'standby power' and sometimes "Phantom load".

Stand-by power in your home or business is contributing to the creation of harmful greenhouse gases, as well as increasing your electricity bills.

On average, standby power can amount to over 10% of total electricity used in a typical home.

Common home and business appliances with stand-by power include computers, VCR's, TVs, home entertainment systems, air conditioners, battery chargers, games consoles, whitegoods (except refrigerators) etc. You may have thought that you were being energy conscious by turning these things off, but they are still using power unless turned off at the power point.

The table from Sustainability Victoria provides a guide for the average amount of energy some stand-by appliances use, and how much this costs annually.



Sustainability  
Fund

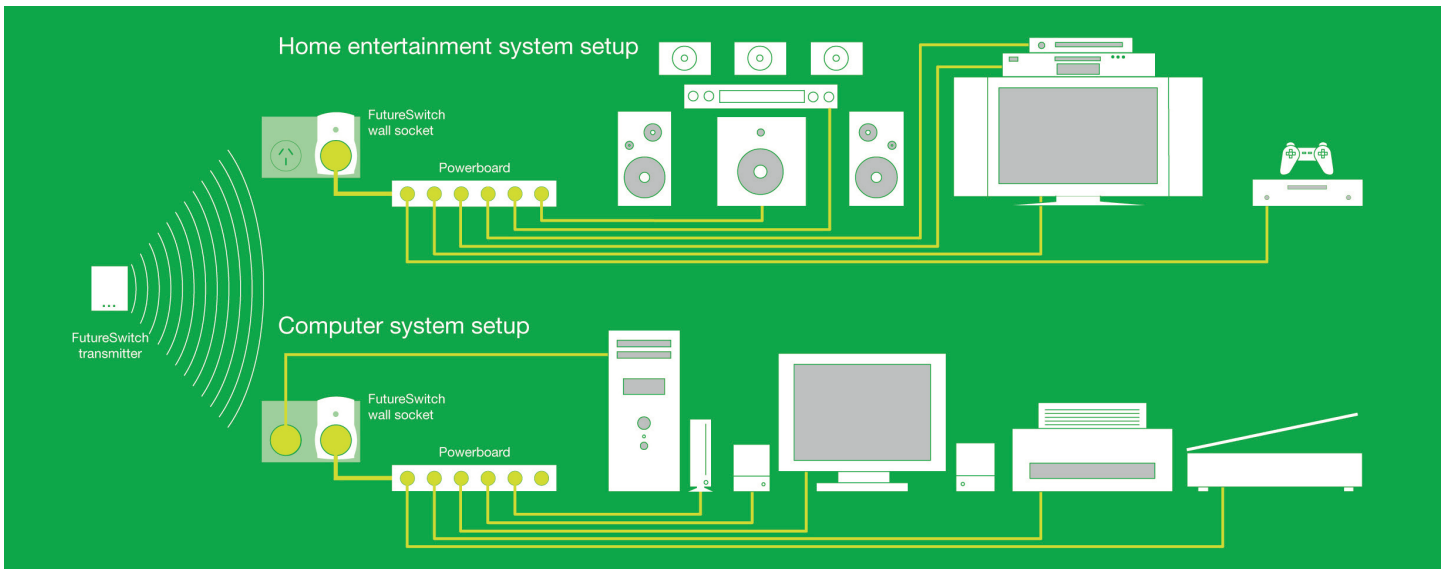


Helen  
Macpherson  
Smith  
Trust





Appliance	Average Standby Energy Use (watts)	Annual Cost (approximately)
Clock radio	4	\$6.00
Computer monitor	5	\$8.00
Cordless phone	3	\$5.00
Games console	2	\$3.00
Microwave oven	4	\$6.00
Mobile phone charger	1	\$2.00
Personal computer	2	\$3.00
Printer	8	\$11.00
Stereo	10	\$15.00
Television	10	\$15.00



## Enter The FutureSwitch!

The FutureSwitch is easy to install, and easy to use. Best of all, it cuts down your stand-by power use, and saves you money. You can buy a starter kit that includes 1 transmitter and 1 receiver, or 1 transmitter and 2 receivers. You simply plug the receiver into a power point, and plug your appliance into the receiver. You can also plug a powerboard into the receiver and plug in several appliances.

Once everything is plugged in, to turn off the standby power simply press the bottom of the transmitter. To turn stand-by power back on, press the top of the transmitter.

Place the transmitter somewhere easy to remember, like next to a light switch, and simply press it when you leave the room to turn your stand-by power off!

It is really easy to add additional receivers to the same transmitter - you can add as many as you like. The transmitter can even be used from a different room, the wireless technology works up to 30 meters away - through internal walls and floors.

### Why the FutureSwitch?

It's easy to use. We didn't have to worry about placing a powerboard in a spot we could reach to turn off. We could use the same device to control many different things, including computers, photocopiers, and printers.

You can see the FutureSwitch in use at:

- Watsonia office and computer room.
- Richmond office.
- Allwood office and computer room.
- Jika Jika office and computer room

### References

EnviroShop 2011, FutureSwitch Twin Pack, [viewed 14 August 2011], [http://www.enviroshop.com.au/Future\\_Switch\\_Twin\\_Pack.html](http://www.enviroshop.com.au/Future_Switch_Twin_Pack.html).

Sustainability Victoria 2011, Running Costs for Electrical and Gas Appliances, viewed 14 August 2011, [http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/documents/Running\\_Costs\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/documents/Running_Costs_Brochure.pdf)



For more information call The North East Neighbourhood House Network on 9457 7900, or Jika Jika Community Centre 9482 5100

Greener Houses Growing Greener Neighbourhoods is transforming five Neighbourhood Houses into ecolving demonstration centres. It is a unique collaboration involving community volunteers, six Neighbourhood Houses, five local Governments, and tertiary institutions. The project is supported by the Victorian Government Sustainability Fund, managed by Sustainability Victoria and two Charitable Trusts.

