



Tips for Reducing the Environmental Impact of your PC:

There are many opportunities to reduce the amount of energy that PC's and monitors consume while operating, and to also support more environmentally-friendly manufacturing and disposal practices. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, PC power management such as those built into Windows 7 operating system can save you about \$50 each year for every desktop computer. Used widely, power management tools could shave \$500 million off the nation's energy bill and eliminate 3 million tons of global warming pollution.

- 1. Laptops vs Desktops.** Many modern laptops consume less than 30 watts when running at full performance, compared with a modern desktop PC that idles around 60W and can consume in excess of 150W at full tilt -and that's not including the monitor. Many new small form-factor laptops idle at less than 15W – less than the power used by a typical Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulb.
- 2. Check your power management settings.** Windows makes it easy to save energy by automatically putting your computer to sleep and turning off the display when you aren't using it. It can even extend the life of your monitor. If you already have power management enabled, reduce the sleep and display blanking timeouts to 10 minutes or less. Screen savers don't save energy - and in some cases use more energy than when you are using the PC yourself – so consider disabling them.
- 3. Make your next PC an EPEAT PC.** EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) makes it easy to discover the greenest PCs available. Covering full lifecycle of PCs (manufacturing, use and disposal), EPEAT rates PCs and monitors on over 50 criteria and rates them with a bronze, silver and gold status. You can also check for the EPEAT logo when you visit online retailers such as CDW, Best Buy and Office Depot. (for more info, go to: www.epeat.net)
- 4. Unplug unused equipment when not in use (monitor, PC, wireless phones, printer, etc.).** Many older electronic products that are plugged into the wall can still draw significant amounts of energy when not in use. If an external power supply is warm, then it's consuming at least some energy. You can buy smart power strips that automatically cut power to your other devices when the PC goes into sleep mode. The power strip provides the few watts the PC needs while in sleep, but can cut power to everything else until the PC is turned on.
- 5. Refurb, Reuse, Recycle:** Surveys conducted by the EPA have noted that only 15% to 20% percent of retired personal computers, TVs, cell phones and other electronic devices are being recycled in the United States. A computer can be recycled or donated after wiping out the hard drive (the North Castle E-Waste Day is a perfect opportunity), or taken apart and reused for parts.