

Reducing Home Computer Electricity Costs

Electricity prices are on the rise, so it pays to make sure you operate home appliances as efficiently as possible. One home appliance that can easily raise the electricity bill, is a home computer.

What we are going to do here in this brief report, is to explain what you can do to reduce the operating costs of a home computer.

The Monitor - One of the biggest power consumers of a home computer, is the high resolution CRT monitor. It is not rare to see these appliances using a couple of hundred watts, per hour. An LCD monitor with the same screen height, may use as little as 25 watts. So it does not take long to re-coup the price of the monitor, especially if your computer is on for many hours each day.

By reducing the brightness of a monitor can also save big time on costs. Even with an LCD monitor, where the brightness is reduced to 40%, this will save as much as 20 watts of power. On a CRT monitor, it is the fluorescent back lighting that eats through your power consumption.

Lastly the screen saver. Initially these were designed to stop login prompts and the like from burning their image onto the screen. They were never intended to save power, as some people have been misled by marketeers to believe. Trendy yes but power saving no. In fact they encourage you to use more, as monitors are often left on in screen saver mode instead of being turned off.

The Printer - Laser printers use considerable more power than a inkjet printer. It all depends on whether your printer is on standby, your printing requirements etc. Remember that whilst the laser printer uses more power, the inkjet's ink is often more expensive.

The Modem / Router - There is no reason for leaving a modem or router on 24/7 unless you are downloading / uploading 24/7. It makes no difference to operation to leaving your modem on 24/7. We are often misled into leaving it on as we are told by the provider that it can be left on 24/7. A saving of 10 watts per hour could be achieved by simply turning off these appliances. Standby can give a faster startup time, but inevitably creates a bigger electricity bill.

The Battery - Are you one of those users who runs the computer on battery power, whilst in the home? Unless you are operating your laptop in this way for a reason specified by the manufacturer, then you should be aware that you may be using more power ie x1.1 to 1.6 than you would if you had the computer plugged in to the mains. Mains power will always be more efficient.

If you are not sure what your computer equipment is costing to run, then a single appliance monitor can be connected between the power point and power block, allowing you to monitor all the electricity use of the computer and peripherals.