Smart Power Strips

Have you ever heard the term “vampire power”? Well this term refers to devices that are plugged into the wall and are not being used. A cell phone charger is a great example, when it is plugged into the wall it can still draw between 1-1.5 watts of power. This does not sound like much but on average a person is not at their desk for about 6,800 hours per year. This converts to 6.8 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year. Now take a look at your desk and the desks around you, do you see headsets, lights, calculators, speakers, radios, and the list goes on and on? This document along with Excel file Smart Power Strip.exl will help you understand how much power and cash is being wasted and help you justify the purchase of new Smart Power Strips.

What is a Smart Power Strip?

Smart Power Strips are here to help you with this vampire power issue. These power strips are not like the normal surge protectors that are under most people’s desks. A Smart Power Strip is “smart”, when your computer is shut down for the night it then turns the power totally off to all other devices that are plugged in like your monitor, headset or any other components that is plugged into the strip. For those devices that need to stay powered up like a network router there is two or three plugs on the strip that have constant power. A Smart Power Strip also works as a surge protector to protect devices from power surges.

What do Smart Power Strips cost and how to get them.

Smart Power Strips have come down in price over the last several years. They are now the same price as a “normal” surge protector. They range in price from $20-$40.

The Smart Power Strip on the left is about $26.00 and will work for most applications. It has a total of ten outlets- one control (always on), three always on, and six switching outlets.

Smart Power Strips are available online at major retailers like Amazon.com. If you are planning on purchasing more than ten strips it is worth taking the time to get a bulk discount.

Unit Example

If a unit had 50 Smart Power Strips that they were going to install and had on average three devices plugged into the strip here are the results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Energy Saved with Smart Strips</th>
<th>Annual Savings with Smart Strips</th>
<th>Time to Recover Cost of Smart Strips</th>
<th>Annual Greenhouse Gas Reduction with Smart Strips</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3060 kWh</td>
<td>$ 336.60</td>
<td>3.9 Yrs</td>
<td>1.90 MTCO2e</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>