green team

Spring 2019 Challenge:
Reducing Phantom Energy

No matter what your position is at the park district, each of us can help reduce the cost and environmental impact of wasted energy.

"Phantom Energy" is the electricity drawn from outlets when equipment is turned off but still plugged in. **Phantom energy can account for 15% or more of the total electricity bill.**

Some electronics stay plugged in all the time and may only get used a couple hours a week or less. Even if the phantom energy draw is small, it can add up to a significant part of your home or work's electricity usage.

Average watts per hour used by electronics *when they're turned OFF*:

- Home printer – 4.3 watts
- Tool charger – 4.2 watts
- Washing machine – 4 watts
- Battery charger – 2.6 watts
- Desktop computer – 2.4 watts
- Computer monitor – 1.2 watts

Practice the following when appropriate:

1. Use power strips or "smart strips"
   a. Put them in easy-to-reach locations
   b. Turn them off when not in use, especially on evenings and weekends
2. Identify major sources of phantom loads and unplug when not in use
3. Unplug charged electronic devices and charging stations
4. Use "hibernate" mode on your computer if leaving your work station by press the power button once
5. Use / buy electronics and appliances with the Energy Star label

Taking these small steps can make a BIG difference!

More resources and information:

- How Much Phantom Energy Do Your Electronics Use?
  http://www.mnenergysmart.com/how-much-phantom-energy-do-your-electronics-use/

- Just How Much Power Do Your Electronics Use When They Are 'Off'?
  https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/08/science/just-how-much-power-do-your-electronics-use-when-they-are-off.html

- How to Save Energy by Eliminating Phantom Loads
  https://learn.eartheasy.com/articles/how-to-save-energy-by-eliminating-phantom-loads/

- How Smart Power Strips Work
  https://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-tech/sustainable/smart-power-strip.htm

- Kill-A-Watt Edge https://eartheasy.com/kill-a-watt-edge/