

Lighting, Appliances and Electronics For Personal Use

Introduction

PCC employees frequently bring in lamps, space heaters and other appliances and electronics to work for personal use. Employees also purchase equipment for breakrooms, like refrigerators and toaster ovens. These appliances and electronics represent significant energy use to our buildings, but careful purchasing and wise device management can reduce that impact.

Surprising Fact

Plug loads may account for 25-50% of total energy consumption or more in a high efficiency building.

Community Benefits

- Uses energy efficiently
- Uses water efficiently
- Ensures responsible end of life management
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Saves money



PCC Recommends



- Use a LED bulb.
- Purchase [Energy Star](#) rated equipment
- Purchase [epeat](#) rated electronics
- Some of the most energy efficient appliances available have been recognized as Energy Star Most Efficient.
- Purchase devices that have automatic shut-off features.
- Purchase from a local retailer or manufacturer.
- Purchase from manufacturers/retailers that have “take-back” programs for appliances at the end-of-life for recycling or refurbishment.

Look for these Ecolabels



The [US Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star](#) label will help you easily identify which products are the most efficient options, and then their EnergyGuide can be used to directly compare your top choices and give you an estimate of the energy use and operating cost.

The [Environmental Product Environmental Assessment Tool \(EPEAT\)](#) is another tool that will help you evaluate the sustainability attributes of your future purchase.

Get in touch with us at sustainability@pcc.edu. For sustainability policies, plans guides and procedures, please visit our [Sustainability Guidance page](#).

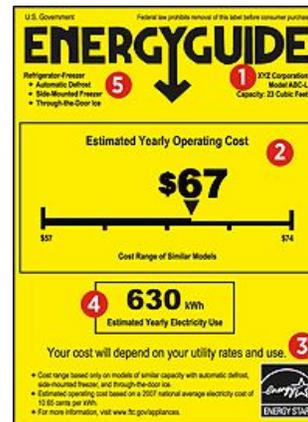
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Tips for Saving Energy



- Electric tea kettles can be an energy efficient way to heat water, but only if you don't overfill them. Otherwise, a microwave can be an equally efficient way to heat water.
- Gaskets on refrigerators should be checked annually for cracks and tears
- Take advantage of rebates from the manufacturer and from the Energy Trust of Oregon for appliances that use energy and water efficiently.
- Size appliances appropriately. For instance, if you only have a few employees using a refrigerator, think about buying a smaller refrigerator. This would save both money on and energy.
- Employ "power saving" modes in available devices; or add external controllers that will power down devices when not in use. Examples include setting up power settings for a computer and monitors and adding smart-power strips that will stop power to equipment that is not in use.
- Use a power strip for devices that don't need to be left always on and shut off the power to the whole strip when you leave the room.
- Unplug personal devices when not in use. Unplug other office equipment when preparing for office closures, or for an extended period of lower activity or occupancy levels. Even leaving a charging cord plugged into the wall without a phone on the other end will draw some power.
- Certain types of devices like microwaves require a three-pronged plug. Check with [Environmental Health and Safety](#).

Use the Energy Guide to Make Better Decisions



The US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Energy Guide Label is required on all appliances sold in the United States, but not all appliances merit an Energy Star Rating. Ovens for example, do not get Energy Star Ratings.

According to industry representatives, a toaster oven uses about 1/2-1/3 less energy than a conventional electric oven for cooking small meals. Typical power consumption of a toaster oven during use is 1,200 to 1,400 watts. Toaster ovens with digital controls use energy even when in standby mode or off!

Space Heaters

Only use space heaters as a last resort; tickets for heating and cooling issues should be submitted through the [Facilities Management Services' ReADY system](#) right away.

Requests for such items should be sent through management, with Risk and [Environmental Health and Safety](#) involvement.

What is the right way to dispose of my appliance?

If your appliance is still working, you can check with PCC's listserv for repurposing items. Sign up with free-stuff-group@pcc.edu.