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THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2008
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LEXICON

vampire electronics

DEFINITION vam-pah-y-r i-lek-tron-iks n. Unused appliances, like cell-phone chargers and coffeemakers, that quietly suck up electricity when left plugged into sockets. Constant consumers, they spike electric bills and put more strain on the nation's power grid.

CONTEXT An estimated 5% of U.S. electricity--or \$4 billion a year--is wasted by appliances on standby mode, and the Department of Energy says that figure could rise to 20% by 2010.

USAGE California legislators passed the Vampire Slayers Act, which will detail how much energy certain appliances can use. Legislation aside, individuals can easily cut down on their energy consumption by investing in government-backed Energy Star appliances or new technologies that closely monitor their home's energy use. In the meantime, simply switching off power-strip cords every night will make a huge difference.

ARTIFACT

QUOTES OF THE DAY »



“I have been waiting for this day for a long time.”

— WU JINGYU, Olympic athlete, after beating her Thai opponent in tae kwon do and winning China's first gold medal in the event

U.S.

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