

Office equipment



Office equipment accounts for about 20 percent of commercial electricity use. Your business can reduce energy consumption of individual items of equipment by over 50 percent by choosing products that comply with the ENERGY STAR standard.

ENERGY STAR is an international standard for energy-efficient equipment like computers, printers, photocopiers, televisions, VCRs, audio products and DVD players.

ENERGY STAR benefits

ENERGY STAR offers benefits to your business, including:

- reduced air conditioning costs, as ENERGY STAR products produce less heat
- increased equipment reliability, as heat can cause equipment failure
- reduced office noise levels, as ENERGY STAR equipment 'powers down' when not in use.

Enable energy-saving features

ENERGY STAR compliant fax machines, scanners, photocopiers and printers are usually sold with the energy-saving features enabled. Computers and monitors may need to have energy-saving features activated.

For information on how to enable ENERGY STAR features visit www.energystar.gov.au, talk to your IT manager or maintenance personnel, or refer to the User Guide supplied by the manufacturer.

Purchasing policy

Consider introducing a policy that all new office equipment be ENERGY STAR compliant. Ensure the equipment is enabled upon delivery.

Employee participation

Inform employees about ENERGY STAR and the benefits it can offer your business. Include them in discussions about convenient time delay settings before power down is activated.

Computers

- The average PC consumes 610kWh of electricity a year and draws between 110 and 150 watts.
- ENERGY STAR can power down the computer, including the hard drive and the central processing unit (CPU), to 30 watts or less.
- Monitors account for about two-thirds of the energy consumption of a typical computer and monitor combination, so huge savings can be made using ENERGY STAR monitors.
- ENERGY STAR is activated if, after the computer has been idle, the screen turns blank and there is little or no noise coming from the system unit.
- Portable computers use less energy than desktop models.
- Your business can save \$36 a year for each ENERGY STAR compliant computer.
- ENERGY STAR can reduce heat generated by computers up to 25 percent.



Printers and fax machines

- ENERGY STAR will automatically switch printers and faxes into 'sleep' modes after a specified amount of idle time.
- The power consumed during sleep mode can be between 15 and 45 watts, depending on the size and capacity of the machine.
- Many ENERGY STAR fax machines can scan double-sided pages enabling reduced copying and paper costs.
- Your business can save about \$20 a year for each ENERGY STAR compliant printer or fax machine.

Photocopiers

- ENERGY STAR photocopiers are equipped with a feature that allows them to automatically turn off after a period of inactivity.
- This enables a reduction in a photocopier's annual electricity costs by over 60 percent.
- Photocopiers can be pre-set to double-sided printing to reduce paper used.
- ENERGY STAR can provide a saving of \$90 per photocopier a year.

For more information

- > visit www.epa.qld.gov.au
- > email ecobiz@epa.qld.gov.au
- > call (07) 3225 1999