



## COMPUTER ENERGY USE GUIDELINES

Background: TUSD spends approximately \$8 million each year for electricity. Arizona School Facilities Board funding has also increased the number of computers in TUSD to over 20,000 while school “excess utility” funding has recently been capped for the next 2 years (FY03-04). The computer use habits that we establish now will, therefore, determine whether we can afford and maintain this important technology into the future.

Compared with a 75 watt incandescent light bulb,

- Most Apple or IBM desktop computers use a range of 150-350 watts with over 50% of that energy, typically, powering the monitor.
- Older laser printers (prior to HP 4’s) can use over 500 watts even in standby mode, more than 5 times the power demand of a dot matrix printer.
- Photocopiers use a range of 250-2,500 watts, depending on the model and use.
- Newer computers, peripheral equipment, and copiers with the Energy Star label utilize a “sleep mode” or “power saving mode” that can reduce energy use by over 90%.

The **Computer Energy Education Panel**, made up of representatives from the Technology & Telecommunication Services and Facilities Management Departments, recommends the following guidelines for all TUSD computer users:

- 1. Turn off computer monitors that won’t be used for more than 30 minutes** (screensavers protect the screen, but don’t save any energy).
- 2. Turn off individual office and Apple Macintosh computers that won’t be used for more than 2 hours.**
- 3. Avoid leaving classroom computers on over weekends and holidays.**
- 4. Turn related computer equipment on individually rather than using power strips (especially in classroom labs) to minimize overloading circuits and spiking demand.**
- 5. Turn office peripherals and copiers off nightly. Leave classroom peripherals on except for weekends and holidays.**
- 6. Leave all file servers and the Food Service cafeteria computer on all the time.**

Conclusion: We can manage energy, water, and solid waste more wisely to improve both student and school performance. Doing our part to change wasteful computer energy use habits will save thousands of dollars that can be better invested in education. Questions and comments about these guidelines or REAP can be directed to Doug Crockett, Natural Resources Manager, at **225-4673**.