

# Energy Saving Tips and things you may not know about Computers



Remember the early 2000s, when you'd share a computer with the rest of your family, and everyone would take turns surfing the web in the living room?

Well, those days are over. Today, pretty much everyone has a personal laptop or desktop, and most of us keep our laptops constantly plugged in, and ready to fire up.

Now, have you ever thought about how much energy your computer consumes on a monthly basis, and how you can cut back on this energy usage?

## How much energy is used to run computers?

The amount of electricity used varies according to the type of computer you use, as well as what you use it for.

### Desktops:

Generally speaking, desktop computers use 60 to 300 watts per hour (Wh) when using speakers and printers. A desktop computer that is on for eight hours straight per day can use almost 600 kilowatt-hours (kWh). Yes, that's a pretty big range, but that's because the amount of energy that's required to power a desktop fluctuates based on what the desktop is used for.

For instance, if you're using your desktop to work on a school or work assignment, and you're just using Microsoft Word and/or Google, this won't consume much power. But if you're a hardcore gamer and you play tons of computer games on your desktop, then your desktop's energy consumption will scale up accordingly.

### Laptops:

As you may guess, laptops consume a lot less energy than desktops – they only use approximately 30 to 70 Wh. A laptop that is on for eight hours straight per day uses between 150 and 300 kWh. Again, the exact amount that your laptop uses will depend on what you're using your laptop for.

Another factor that influences the amount of energy a laptop uses is the screen (and brightness of the screen). If you own a mini laptop with a small-sized screen, then this will definitely consume less energy. The same goes if you make it a point to keep your screen brightness on "low", or turn off the backlight function on your keyboard.

In stand-by mode the power consumption of both a desktop and a laptop falls to about a third. Putting the monitor on stand-by reduces its consumption by 15%. If the monitor is switched off completely, then of course it does not use any power.

### Tablets:

Out of the lot, tablets are the smallest devices, and it naturally follows that they consume the least amount of energy. On average, tablets use just 15 to 30 Wh, which means that four hours worth of tablet usage is roughly equivalent to one hour's worth of desktop usage.

Again, whether you keep your tablet screen turned to maximum brightness or you choose to use a lower brightness setting plays a big role in impacting the amount of energy your tablet consumes.

## Energy saving computer tips:

Ever gotten to your computer in the morning, and realised it's been running all night long?

### Enable Sleep Mode:

To avoid wasting energy unnecessarily, make sure you enable sleep mode. Once you've activated this setting, your computer will automatically power down after an extended period of inactivity.

### Use A Single Power Strip:

To make it easier for you to shut down your computer and related accessories, consolidate all your devices and plug them into a single power strip.

This way, when you want to stop using your computer, you can flick a single switch and have everything shut down at once.

Other tips include:

- Switch off the speakers if you are not using them.
- Switch off the printer when it's not needed.
- Switch off the screen if you are not working on the PC just now.
- Use a laptop in preference to a desktop.
- Switch off the modem at night.

Sources: [www.energyguide.be](http://www.energyguide.be)



Although the use of desktop computers, laptops and tablets constitute only 1% of your household's total energy usage, following these guidelines as well as energy saving guidelines for air conditioners, water heaters, washers and dryers, refrigerators, dishwashers and lighting, can significantly reduce your energy usage resulting in lower electricity bills.

For more energy saving tips, visit our website at [www.cuc-cayman.com](http://www.cuc-cayman.com) or contact our Customer Service Team at 949-5200 or via e-mail at [service@cuc.ky](mailto:service@cuc.ky).