



## Energy Myths and Facts

There are some general misconceptions regarding the way office appliances and lighting uses energy. In order to dispell some of the current myths, we present the facts about energy use.

**MYTH:** Screen savers save energy.

**FACT:** Screen savers do not save energy. Set your screen saver to 'none' or 'blank screen' and turn your monitor off when your computer is not in use.

**MYTH:** Turning off computers is bad for the hard drive.

**FACT:** Switching off computers will have no significant effect on the useful lifetime of the hard disk. Shut down your computer at the end of the day and before the weekend.

**MYTH:** When equipment is turned on or powers up from a sleep mode, there is a surge of energy and therefore it is better to leave equipment running because this uses less energy than turning it off and on.

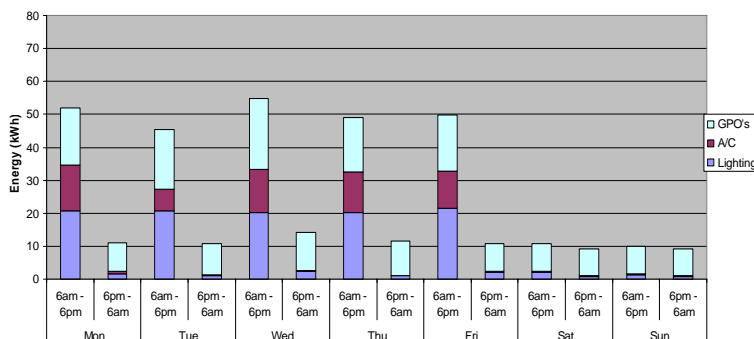
**FACT:** Start-up current surges are of very short duration and consume a few seconds of average running time energy. Switch off equipment which will not be in use for more than a few minutes.

**MYTH:** Turning off or using power save on computers and printers causes networking problems.

**FACT:** If networks have been properly set up there should be no problem with turning off or power managing computers and printers in the network. While servers need to be left on, they do not need their screens on after hours to assist processing.

The graph displays off peak energy consumption from a study in the Engineering Hut. The off-peak general power outlet consumption is relatively high. Remember to turn off lights and electrical equipment at the end of the day to save energy and cut Greenhouse Gas emissions which contribute to climate change.

Engineering Hut Daily Energy Usage



For further information, contact Environmental Services:

- Green Office Coordinator (p/t) Ext: 69959 Email: [unigreen@pf.uq.edu.au](mailto:unigreen@pf.uq.edu.au)
- Environmental Coordinator Ext: 52076 Email: [k.ollett@pf.uq.edu.au](mailto:k.ollett@pf.uq.edu.au)
- Project Officer Environment Ext: 57580 Email: [l.burgess@pf.uq.edu.au](mailto:l.burgess@pf.uq.edu.au)

Website: [www.pf.uq.edu.au/Ems/GrnOffPrgrm.html](http://www.pf.uq.edu.au/Ems/GrnOffPrgrm.html)

## Recycling



You can recycle glass, aluminium and plastic using your co-mingle recycling bin. This reduces the amount of raw materials, energy and water used in the production of new products. If you do not have a co-mingle recycling bin, contact [cleaning@pf.uq.edu.au](mailto:cleaning@pf.uq.edu.au) or [recycle@pf.uq.edu.au](mailto:recycle@pf.uq.edu.au)

To see if an item is recyclable check for the recycling symbol on the product. If you are not sure; the list below covers what can and what can not be put in the **co-mingle recycling bin**.



Recyclable	Non recyclable
Aluminium cans	Cling wrap
Glass bottles and jars	Paddle pop sticks
Plastic bottles and containers	Plastic cutlery, plates and cups
Milk cartons	Polystyrene cups
Cardboard cups	

**E-waste** in Australia is estimated to be growing at more than three times the rate of general municipal waste. Staff can recycle their obsolete IT equipment; Property & Facilities collects and arranges for the disposal of obsolete computer equipment by companies who recycle the raw material. See the recycling guide on the Green Office website for further details at [www.pf.uq.edu.au/Ems/GrnOffPrgrm.html#](http://www.pf.uq.edu.au/Ems/GrnOffPrgrm.html#)

## Coming Events

- **Water Forum-** UQ Centre Lecture Theatre on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 1.30- 3.30pm. St Lucia Green Office Representatives are invited to attend. RSVP at [unigreen@pf.uq.edu.au](mailto:unigreen@pf.uq.edu.au)
- **Green Office Information and Training Session-** Property and Facilities meeting room (bldg 97, Services Road) St Lucia on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October, all new representatives wishing to join the program are invited to attend.
- **National Water Week** 21<sup>st</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> October see [www.nationalwaterweek.org.au](http://www.nationalwaterweek.org.au) for more details and watch out for your water awareness pack from P & F.
- **National Recycling Week** is on from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> of November see [www.planetark.com.au/nrw/](http://www.planetark.com.au/nrw/) for more details.
- **Electronic waste collection days-** 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October at various locations around Brisbane. For more details see: [http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE:1216074493:pc=PC\\_2245](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE:1216074493:pc=PC_2245)