UNM | Energy Conservation

TIP OF THE MONTH

September 2011

UNPLUG VAMPIRE ELECTRONICS

Vampire electronics are electrical devices that draw power when the device is switched off but still plugged in. Your cell phone charger, radio, DVD player, computer monitor, and many more plug-in devices are examples of vampire electronics. By unplugging electronics that aren't being used, you can reduce standby-energy usage close to 30 percent.

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SOLAR @ UNM

After finding some old solar panels in the basement of the mechanical engineering building is 2008, Professor Andrea Mammoli initiated an alternative energy project with ME faculty, graduate students, and the Physical Plant Department to save energy. Together, they designed and installed a system to heat and cool the building using: solar panels, vacuum tube collectors, and absorption chiller, thermal storage tanks, and supplementary heat exchangers. The new system reduces the peak electric power demand up to 50 percent by shifting the cooling load to the solar chiller and night-time charging of the terminal storage tanks. This helps reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 100 tons each year. Since then, then Mechanical Engineering building has reduced energy by over 40 percent.