

STARTER PLAN

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TOPIC: COMPUTERS, COPIERS, AND PRINTERS

ISSUE:

Energy consumed by computer workstations, copiers and printers.

BACKGROUND:

Energy User News in its August 1998 issue reported:

“ The Environmental Protection Agency states that operating office equipment in U.S. businesses costs millions of dollars each year. In the average office, computers that are turned on are in use only four hours a day. Additionally, 25 percent of computers are left running overnight and on weekends. When equipment is left on all of the time, energy consumption for a single workstation can total 2,500 kWh per year or from \$125 to \$250, depending on utility rates.

Source: Association of Energy Engineers:

- *Laser printers use 300 watts; ink jets use only 10, for similar quality.*
- *A computer monitor uses 60 watts of power; it should be turned off if the employee leaves for more than 10 minutes.*
- *By using the stand-by button on a copier, the energy load will be lightened by 70 %.*
- *For three copies or less, use the printer. For more use the copier.*
- *Recycling paper reduces energy by 70%.”*

RECOMMENDATION:

This is for your general information. Contact equipment manufacturers for specific information and recommendations.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Contact Facilities Quality Service at til@va.gov