

## Debunking Some Common Misconceptions

**#1 Screen savers DO NOT save energy.** If a screen saver appears on your screen for more than 5 minutes, you are wasting energy. A moving screen saver consumes just as much power as the monitor would use in active mode.



**#2 Turning your computer (and any peripheral equipment) off and on does not harm the equipment.** Computers are designed to protect their internal circuitry from any potential damage of power switching. The life of electronic equipment depends on operating hours and heat, both of which are reduced by turning your computer off when not in use. And modern hard drives are designed to operate reliably for thousands of off/on cycles.

**#3 Turning your computer off and on according to use patterns is LESS energy intensive** than leaving your computer on in sleep mode continuously.

## Green Computing Tips

1. Turn off your computer when not in use.
2. Make sure to activate “sleep mode” as a default when setting up your computer.
3. Always look for the EnergyStar label when purchasing a new computer.
4. Unplug all periphery equipment (speakers, printers, etc.) when not in use.
5. Do not leave your computer plugged in unless it is actively charging.
6. Use recycled paper, print double-sided, and only print what you need.
7. Do not print multiple copies if you don't see your document at the printer; check your settings, it may have printed on another machine.

### For more information contact:

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## A GUIDE TO GREEN COMPUTING



## Why Green Computing?

Computer use accounts for a large portion of our energy consumption. Altogether there are around 3200 computers at Bates, roughly half of which are student-owned.

Undoubtedly they are extremely useful. Students can email professors, write essays, register for extra classes, and look up almost anything online. Research reveals however, that most personal computers are not being used the majority of the time they are running, and that some are left on continuously.



*Each laptop uses over 150 kWh over the course of one school year.*

Understanding the effects of power usage can show us how to the most out of our computers with the least energy consumed. This guide was created to educate you

on how to reduce your energy impact through “green” computing.

Each year more and more equipment is brought into dorm rooms, putting a strain on the school’s utility budget and the environment. The focus of this brochure on computers is a first step which can easily be applied to printers, televisions, stereos, etc.

## The Cost of Computing

The typical laptop draws approximately 50 watts/hr of electricity while running. They are more efficient than desktop computers which draw between 100 and 150 watts/hr, but can still be wasting power.

If every student on campus has their laptop on for 15 hours per day, during the course of one school year Bates will pay over \$38,000 and use over 276,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. That’s enough energy to power 26 households for an entire year.



## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

As you may know, Bates purchases 94% of its power from renewable sources. That means most of our electricity has virtually no greenhouse gas emissions. The remaining 6% of electricity used in campus houses however, comes from the standard mix (which is predominated by fossil fuels).

There are nearly 500 students living in these houses. That translates into the release of over 100,000 pounds of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from student computing alone.



*Roughly half of Bates’ renewable electricity comes from small hydroelectric dams.*

## Power Management Settings

The best thing to do when you are not using your computer is to turn it off. For intermittent periods of inactivity make sure your computer is powered down. Most computers are equipped with EnergyStar power management features to automatically enter into a low power state or “sleep mode” when they are not being used.

You can access your laptop’s power management settings by following these simple steps:

### MACINTOSH

- > From any application select the Apple Menu
- > Select “System Preferences...” (OS X) or “Control Panels” (OS9) and click on “Energy Saver”
- > Choose the “Better Energy Savings” default option or create your own

### WINDOWS

- > Right click on your desktop background
- > Choose “Properties” from the menu and click on the “Screen Saver” tab
- > In the lower right-hand corner click “Settings”
- > This will bring up a dialogue box where you can choose your power management settings

