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Energy-efficient only, please!

Federal Environment Agency at IFA Berlin - updated *Computer, Internet und Co* brochure now published

The Federal Environment Agency (UBA) will once again be an exhibitor at IFA Berlin 2009, the international trade show for consumer electronics, information and communications technology, and home appliances. From 4 - 9 September 2009, consumers can gather information at the UBA booth (Nr. 108 in Hall 2.2.a) about saving energy and achieve two goals at once: using energy efficiently to save money and the climate, and this is no small feat. In 2007, information and communications technology equipment alone produced some 33 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is more than the entire German aviation sector. Just in time for IFA, UBA is presenting its updated *Computer, Internet und Co* brochure with advice on saving energy while surfing, playing, or chatting.

Computers, refrigerators, flatscreen monitors, washing machines—all these appliances use electricity, yet just how much is something we can easily take control of ourselves. When buying new appliances consumers should therefore pay attention to more than just design or price, and instead take a closer look and ask merchants how much electricity it consumes in its lifetime. One thing is clear: energy-efficient models pay off in the long run, and they needn't be more expensive to buy. When considering home appliances such as fridges and washing machines, consumers can use the EU energy labelling system (Classes A - G) as guidance. Bigger, brighter, louder—does it make sense? The entertainment electronics industry constantly introduces new models to the market. TVs are becoming bigger, and computers have ever more features, with a concurrent rise in energy consumption and resulting outcome visible on the electric bill. Conclusion: do not just go for the maximum possible, but choose what makes the most sense for one's personal needs. To compare: a PC that runs complicated games can use up to 767 kilowatt hours per year, or some 151 euros in electricity costs. An efficient multimedia PC, which is perfectly sufficient to serve many purposes, consumes a mere 88 kilowatt hours and about 17 euros. The frontrunners in energy consumption are large plasma screens with a diagonal of over one metre that use up to 600 kilowatt hours. Six fridges could be run simultaneously on such an amount.

Really turning it 'off': Many devices continue to consume power even when switched off and are an unnecessary burden on the household budget. These so-called idle losses, including stand-by, incur at least 4 billion euros annually in electricity consumption costs in the homes and offices of Germany alone.

UBA is offering information at its IFA booth on how to really turn appliances 'off' and will be introducing equipment that bears the power-saver label and can either be switched 'off' or consumes less than 1 watt when on standby.

Come and see us at IFA Berlin, Hall 2.2.a / Booth Nr.108. For more about IFA go to: www.ifa-berlin.de

The updated *Computer, Internet und Co.* brochure is available for download or postal order free of charge at http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-medien/mysql_medien.php?anfrage=Kennnummer&Suchwort=3725 or from: Federal Environment Agency, c/o GVP, P.O. Box 30 03 61, 53183 Bonn, customer care line: (030) 18 305 33 55, Fax: (030) 18 305 33 56 or uba@broschuerenversand.de.

More information on the topic of saving energy is here:
<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/energie/sparen.htm>

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