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Libraries now help to save electricity

UBA lending power meters free of charge

The Federal Environment Agency (UBA) has now supplied 500 energy-saving packs to libraries. The sets can be borrowed free of charge and used to detect and minimise standby losses. The campaign was launched in cooperation with the foundation *No-Energy-Stiftung für Klimaschutz und Ressourceneffizienz*. "The most effective brake on the electricity bill is to save! Many households could take simple measures to save electricity in amounts can reach triple digits in a year," explains UBA's President Jochen Flasbarth. "Libraries are helping users determine their present power consumption levels and to use the energy-saving pack to find out where there is saving potential."

Electronic devices such as computers, radios or DVD players have one thing in common: they use energy even when they are not in use, that is, when on standby. This unnecessary waste of energy adds up to about five or six billion euros per year in German households and offices. It is older equipment in particular - refrigerators, washing machines and clothes dryers - that have a disproportionately high rate of power consumption. It does not follow, however, that newer equipment is always low-energy. The differences between individual models can be quite significant. The energy cost monitor - a device which measures electricity use - offers help. UBA is therefore delivering 500 such "energy-saving packs" to libraries. Library users can borrow them and unveil energy guzzlers in the home. The pack includes the power meter, an extension cord with an 'on/off' switch, a detailed handbook, important information about saving energy, and a promotional stand-up display. A small measuring device will show the user - between the mains and the tested piece of equipment - how much power that device consumes. For example, you can see if your washing machine is still using power when it is not in operation. The meter can also calculate the annual cost of running the refrigerator. This might be helpful if one is deciding whether to make a new purchase.

Further information and links:

The energy-saving pack:

<http://www.oekobase.de/Stiftung/html/bibliotheken.html>

Interested libraries can order the pack by sending an e-mail to:

umweltbundesamt@no-energy.de

Current news about the energy-saving pack for libraries campaign is here:

<http://www.no-energy.de>

UBA brochure on saving energy in the home (Energiesparen im Haushalt - in German):

<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-medien-e/188.html>

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