

Take it home Goodbye standby



At school we're saving energy by saying **goodbye to standby**. Turning off electronic devices saves energy and can help to reduce energy bills.

Here are some fun activities to do with your children that will help to make your home a greener place too.

What is standby?

Standby, or sleep, is a low power mode for electronic goods. Although standby uses less power than leaving something turned on, it does still use electricity, even though the device isn't in use. Check that everyone in your family understands what standby mode is.

A campaign was launched in 2006 to phase out standby buttons in the UK. It is hoped to save up to 4 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) every year.¹ That's the weight of about 10,000 fully loaded Jumbo Jets! CO2 is one of the main causes of global warming. Do you think the standby button should be banned?

Saying goodbye to standby will save energy and could help to reduce your electricity bills.



Take action

Each person in the UK leaves up to 12 different gadgets left on standby or charging at any one time.² How many do you have in your home?

Ask your kids to check all of the electronic gadgets in your house. How many have been left on standby? Get them to make a list and decide who should be responsible for turning them off. Are there any devices which must not be switched off - computers that need to be backed-up, perhaps?

Imagine how much electricity is wasted if every house in your street, town and across the whole country all leave that many devices on standby!

Now it's time to act and say **goodbye to standby** in your home.

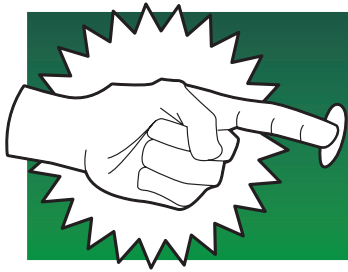
fact

Some devices, like DVD players and newer TVs, don't even have an off switch, just a switch that puts them into standby mode. This means you have to switch them off at the socket to properly turn them off.



¹ See: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4633160.stm>

² 'Energy and Waste in an Age of Excess' - report for Energy Savings Trust, October 2005



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Things to do:

- ▶ Make a poster reminding your family to switch off all the devices on your list. Put it in places where everyone will see it – on a notice board, on the fridge or by a computer.
- ▶ Make stickers reminding everyone to turn gadgets off. Stick them to, or near, the devices on your list.
- ▶ Create a new screensaver for any computers in your house, reminding people to shut down the machine when they've finished using it.
- ▶ Produce a list of who is the best (and worst) at remembering to switch off devices. You could share this information by putting it on a notice board or fridge in the kitchen. The best could be rewarded. The worst could be fined!

fact



In the UK, stereos left on standby waste £290m worth of energy every year. That's more than any other device. Other big wasters of energy include TVs, games consoles and computer monitors.³

Other ideas

Think about ways of taking the 'Goodbye standby' message into your community. Your children could write a letter to your neighbours explaining what you have achieved in your house, explaining the environmental benefit and savings to energy bills. They could also ask if your local library, community or leisure centres would display posters they have made.



When you leave your mobile phone charger plugged in to the wall but not connected to your phone, it still uses electricity. Only when you turn the charger off at the wall does it stop using power.

Being green: energy

Energy is vital to the way we live today. We use it to power our transport, cook our food, heat and light our homes, and operate the countless machines and appliances we use every day.

Most of the energy we use today comes from one place – fossil fuels. About three quarters of the UK's energy currently comes from burning fossil fuels.

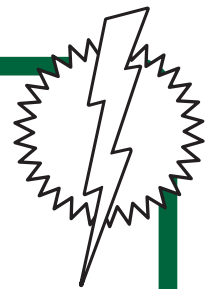
Burning fossil fuels also produces billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. This stays in the atmosphere for many years, trapping more of our planet's heat. It has been scientifically shown that the atmosphere and the oceans are warming up because of human activities – particularly the burning of fossil fuels.

Before the end of this century, climate change could make our world a much more difficult place to live for billions of people – including you and me. Unless we do something about it soon!

We need to be greener, and using less energy is an important part of this. We all need to act now to tackle climate change head on.

Get advice on living a greener life at
www.teamgreenbritain.org/podparents

Information provided by the Eden Project



³ Estimates for standby energy consumption are sourced from Defra's Market Transformation Programme (BNXS36: Estimated UK Standby Electricity Consumption in 2004, www.mtprog.com) & EST estimates and assume an electricity at a cost of 7.9p/kWh.

