



**MEDIA  
RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

**Local Study Shows *Phantom Load* May Be Key for Energy Savings**

Thunder Bay, ON – A study recently conducted by the Conservation and Demand Management Program at Thunder Bay Hydro discovered that eliminating a common habit can save considerable amounts of kilowatt hours each year. Turning off your computer and enabling conservation software, that most computers have, can save up to 60% of the energy used by the average computer and make a difference on your electricity bill that amounts to about 10 days worth of electricity annually in an average household.

The Thunder Bay Hydro study showed that attention to “Phantom Load” is an important part of energy conservation. Phantom loads are found in appliances that are using power when you are unaware of it. Examples are electronic devices that are plugged in and not being used but consume power to keep them in the standby mode. Standby power typically is 10 to 15 watts per device and sometimes more. In some cases Phantom Load can account for up to 7% of your total power bill.

In the study, a “line logger” was used to monitor energy usage in different powering situations.

**Common Habit:** The computer is on all the time and the monitor goes into screen saver mode after 10 minutes of disuse. This logged a usage of 433 kWh annually.

**Energy Saver:** Software is enabled to place both the computer and the monitor on standby after 10 minutes. User turns the computer off at the end of every day of use. This logged a usage of 171 kWh annually.

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## **Phantom Load Study *continued***

This simple solution can save 262 kilowatt hours per year in a household with only one PC. For a business with 100 computers, this can amount to thousands of dollars each year in savings.

“Doing an audit of appliances or devices plugged in an extremely important tool in identifying usage in your home,” says Frank Oostveen, Energy Services Advisor with Thunder Bay Hydro. “You should always be asking yourself these questions: why is it plugged in and how much power is it actually using when I am not using it?”

Line loggers are available on loan from Thunder Bay Hydro for no charge. They can be used to identify phantom loads and the power draw of your older appliances. The Conservation and Demand Management Program uses them to address high bill concerns from Thunder Bay Hydro Customers.

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## **MAY 25 TO 31 IS ENERGY CONSERVATION WEEK!**

**Photo and Interview Opportunity available.**

**Our Energy Services Advisors are available to discuss their findings and local anecdotes about phantom loads.**

For More Information -  
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