

## Beware the Vampires



You pushed the on/off button, so you think you've turned them off. But beware. Any electronic device - a computer, TV, stereo, DVD player, or cable box that can be operated with a remote control - is really just in a power save or standby mode, even if you've turned it *off*. Otherwise, that remote control wouldn't work. Likewise for those chargers you leave plugged in all the time, the ones for your cell phones, PDAs, and electric toothbrushes. And don't forget all the gadgets that have clocks: the coffee maker, microwave, and the VCR. There they sit, silently sucking up electricity.

These *vampire electrical loads* can really add up. An estimated 5% of US electricity goes to standby power; that could rise to 20% by 2010, according to the US Department of Energy. That's why California passed the Vampire Slayers Act, which requires labels showing how much energy products consume in the standby mode.

Don't forget that the greenhouse gas emissions associated with every single kiloWatt hour of electricity that we, or the vampires, use. So plug into these handy solutions. Plug all your vampire devices into outlets that are controlled by wall switches, or into power strips. Then turn them off when they're not in use. Most devices will automatically re-set their displays the next time they're turned on. Or have an electrician install a master switch that shuts off electricity to all designated outlets throughout your house or office.

### Be a vampire slayer

This message has been brought to you by Wilshire Center's *Cool District* with the help of Green and Beyond. The Wilshire Center Business Improvement Corporation (WCBIC) has been working to improve the community for the past thirteen years. We've come a long way over the years; the present is good and the future is bright. And we're working to make it even brighter. Wilshire Center members have pledged to reduce the district's emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a global warming gas, by 2% a year for each of the next 40 years.

Wilshire Center occupies 2 square miles, is home to 1,000 retail businesses, over 50,000 residents, employs over 30,000 people and hosts thousands of visitors.