

Wall Warts

Intro Music

ANNOUNCER: Welcome to The Energy Update, brought to you by San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

HEATHER: Hi, I'm Heather Sanchez, representing San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. Here's a question for you, Gerald. Do you have wall warts?

ANNOUNCER: Wall warts? What a funny question. I have to tell you, I'm drawing a complete blank on this one.

HEATHER: I think most of us tend to overlook wall warts! The truth is, wall warts are far more common than you might think. Wall warts are another name for the boxes on the plug-ins for cell phones, computer devices, I-pods and many other household items.

ANNOUNCER: If that's what you mean, sure. I have lots. Is that a problem for me?

HEATHER: It's only a problem if you want to keep your electric bills low. You might think that a charger or other box-style plug-in doesn't use energy if it isn't attached to the device it powers. That's not true. It might not use as much power, but it does use some. Often, you can tell by touching the box. If it's warm, it's using power. If you make it a practice to unplug wall warts when they aren't being actively used, you will reduce your electric bill.

ANNOUNCER: It's just so easy to leave them plugged in. Is it really worth it?

HEATHER: It's pretty easy to turn them off if you plug a surge strip into the electrical outlet, then use the switch on the surge strip to turn off all the connected devices at once. This also works well for televisions, VCR's, satellite receivers and other electronic devices. Anything that has a remote control also draws power even when it's off. And is it worth it? I think so. We've found it made a difference in our house to make a conscious effort to put everything we can onto surge strips to control use when we aren't actively using our phone chargers, tv's and such. Consider this: if you just use your home computer for about an hour most evenings, if you leave it on

24/7, over a month it will cost you about \$12 in electricity. If you put the computer and monitor on a surge strip, and turn that strip off when the machine isn't in use, it would cost you about 50 cents a month.

ANNOUNCER: You've got to be kidding. That's a huge difference!

HEATHER: It really adds up. Contact SLVREC to learn more about quality surge protection that will do a great job of protecting electronics as well as helping you save on your electric bill.

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