

Want to save \$100? BLUER (Borough Leaders United for Emissions Reduction) can help! Most people know that TVs, computers, and other appliances consume power when in use. What's not so obvious is that they continue to draw power when **not** in use – known as “phantom loads.” Homes are full of appliances with phantom loads including: cell phone chargers, gaming stations, microwaves, coffeemakers, stereos, and DVD players. Phantom loads draw less than when devices are actually in use, but they add up since they draw energy 365 days a year. The Department of Energy estimates the average U.S. home pays more than \$100 a year on phantom loads.

Solutions include charging devices using external power adapters approved by Energy Star. These models use 30 percent less power than conventional models. Power strips also can help. They allow numerous appliances to be plugged into one outlet. Then you just have to remember to shut off the strip when not in use. More expensive power strips can help too by stopping power to appliances not in use but also allowing for continuous power to appliances that need it.

Get on your way to \$100 savings by eliminating or decreasing phantom load! For more energy saving tips, visit BLUER at www.wcbluer.org