

Watt Watchers of Texas - *Saving Energy in Texas Schools...*

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Unplug the Extras –

Winter Break is just around the corner and there are a few things that we encourage you to do before you leave.

1. Turn off all computer monitors and computers in your room.
2. Unplug refrigerators and microwaves in your classroom or teachers lounge.
3. Take home any class pets or plants (check your school policy for aquariums).
4. Make sure all the lights are out.
5. Turn off other shared equipment like copy machines, printers, laminators, etc...
6. Close the windows and adjust your shades (open your shades if your classroom is south facing and close them if your classroom is north facing).
7. Unplug any seasonal decorations.
8. If you are in a portable make sure heaters are off or set back.
9. Turn off and unplug TV's – some are "instant on" and constantly draw electricity.
10. Unplug any rechargeable tools of other items – they are energy vampires!

Decorating with Holiday Lights

Holiday lights vary in energy efficiency. You now have a wider choice of bulbs when decorating. The old C-7 standard bulbs use 6 Watts each, the more recent mini-bulbs use only 0.48 Watts each but most consumers tend to use more of them (e.g. "Icicle lights"). New on the market are LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulbs that consume a mere 0.08 Watts each -- that's a string of 100 for only 8 Watts! They also last 25,000 to 50,000 hours. A good source of information about holiday lighting is the Energy Ideas Clearinghouse -- <http://www.energyideas.org/pages/default.cfm?o=h,ps&c=z,87> -- Holiday Lighting News and Resources page. Find out about fiber optic Christmas trees, too -- and more. If it is too late for this year's decorating you can inform yourself and be ready for those post-holiday sales. Maybe you can get some bargains on energy efficient lights to make next year even brighter.

Watt Watchers of Texas Website

Keep checking the Watt Watchers of Texas website. There will be lots of new additions to the website in the coming months. If you are looking for something and can't locate it please

Have a nice winter break, we look forward to working with you all in the New Year!
Watt Watchers of Texas