

# Holiday Hints

## Efficient Gift Shopping

(NAPSA)—This holiday season, gift givers can wrap up their shopping and help the environment at the same time.

By giving home electronics products that have earned the ENERGY STAR, you're not only giving your loved one a great gift, you're doing your part to help protect our environment.

Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR meet strict energy efficiency criteria set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. They use less energy, which means less air pollution from the nation's power plants.

Most U.S. households have at least three home electronics products. In the average home, 75 percent of all electricity used to power these electronics is consumed while the products are turned off. This is because they continue to use energy even when you are not using them—to maintain clock displays, remote control settings and other product features. And by 2015, electronics and small appliances will be responsible for almost 40 percent of all household electricity use. The facts are:

- Americans spend \$1 billion each year to power their TVs and VCRs when they are switched off.
- Nearly 90 percent of all energy used to power cordless phones, answering machines and combination telephone units is used while the product is not in use.
- In the U.S., the electricity consumed by home electronics while turned off equals the annual output of 12 power plants.



**If half of all households in the U.S. replaced their regular TV with an ENERGY STAR qualified model, the change would be like shutting down a power plant.**

Home electronics products that have earned the ENERGY STAR offer the same or better performance and features as conventional products. And while they cost the same, they have an added bonus—they use less energy so they save money and help protect the environment.

Look for the ENERGY STAR on many of the latest consumer electronics products such as TVs, DVD players, cordless telephones and answering machines, VCRs, stereo and other home audio systems and combination units, such as the new TV/VCR/DVD combination unit. They are made by the manufacturers of all the high-tech brands you recognize and trust.

Most major retail chain stores, as well as some smaller, local stores carry electronics that have earned the ENERGY STAR.

For more information visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or call 1-888-782-7937.