

# 4 Going Green

OUR JOURNEY HAS JUST BEGUN

E-Mission News From the Banks Hardwoods Environmental Committee - Sept./Oct. 2008



## Is There a Phantom Hiding in Your Home?

You may not be aware of it, but your home could be harboring a Phantom or Vampire that's increasing your electricity bill up to 10 percent each month. These ominous sounding names refer to what are also known as idle current, standby or sleep modes which are found in many of our modern appliances.



From televisions to computers to cell phone chargers, these "power vampires" consume electricity even after the switches have been turned off.

*"Phantom loads are wasted energy that can add up to 10 percent of your electric bill - and cost US consumers around \$4 Billion each year."*

Many electronic products today come with phantom loads. If your device works with a remote or soft-touch keypad, has LED lights or a digital clock, or has an AC adapter ("wall wart") then chances are it's consuming power 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And it adds up. Many devices actually consume more power while they're "sleeping" than when they're actually on. For example, during the lifetime of a household satellite dish, digital cable receiver, or DVD player more than 75 percent of its power is consumed in standby mode. Research indicates that only 5% of the power drawn by cell phone chargers is actually used to charge phones.

So what can you do? The simplest answer is to literally pull the plug on these devices whenever possible. If an appliance is not in use, or if a rechargeable device is charged, unplug it from the outlet. For things like entertainment systems or computer stations, use a power strip that can be easily accessed to turn everything off at once. Not only will you save energy, but you'll be protected from power surges that can damage equipment. If you'd like to get a little more serious, you can purchase inexpensive devices that will actually measure the amount of energy used by the device when it's plugged in, allowing you to make informed choices.

## Greener Cleaners at Banks



We've recently switched our cleaning supplies to environmentally friendly, low-impact cleaners from a company called *Seventh Generation*. This company was selected based on the non-toxic formulations of their products and their company commitment to the environment. To learn more about *Seventh Generation*, visit their web site at [www.seventhgeneration.com](http://www.seventhgeneration.com).

*"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."*

### E-Mission Statement

*"As we strive to produce the highest quality lumber and provide the very best service to our customers we will do everything within our means to minimize the harm we do to our environment."*

### Have a Suggestion?

There are many things we could do to help the environment. If you have any suggestions, please bring them to the committee ([regina@bankshardwoods.com](mailto:regina@bankshardwoods.com)).