Introduction

Welcome to Week 2 of the 2018 Certified Green Lab Program! Last week, the first newsletter covered the four Required Actions for Green Lab certification. If you missed it or need a refresher, you can find the newsletter's contents [here](). This week, we will begin covering the 30 Elective Actions, starting with Action #1:

1. Label equipment that can be turned off daily with stickers and/or plug them all into power strips that can easily turn all equipment off.

As a reminder, completion of five Elective Actions beyond the Required Actions will earn you Bronze level certification, completion of ten will earn Silver level certification, and fifteen Elective Actions will earn Gold level certification. Each forthcoming newsletter will review 1-3 Elective Actions.

Instructions

Elective Action #1: Label equipment that can be turned off daily with stickers and/or plug them all into power strips that can easily turn all equipment off.

For most electronic devices, the only way to completely stop their electricity consumption when not in use is to unplug them from the wall. This is because many electronics either don't turn off completely when the off button is pressed (going into ["standby" mode]() instead) or just because they continue to draw small amounts of energy anyway. Power strips are perhaps the most effective tool to combat this drain of "phantom" energy. By flipping of the switch on a power strip, power is cut off to every device that is plugged into it. So, by having computers or other devices in your office plugged into power strips, you can ensure that as much power as possible is cut off overnight. You just have to remember to turn off the strips! Most also have surge protectors built in, so there is the added benefit of protection for your computers against power surges.

Thankfully, power strips are a fairly cheap investment -- basic ones can be found for $10 or less. If you want to invest in a "smart" power strip (which might be able to turn itself off when it senses when power is no longer being used, selectively cut off power to different devices, or be turned off remotely, among other capabilities), costs could run upwards of $30.

While power strips can be found in a variety of local stores ranging from hardware to electronics to big box (and we would encourage you to purchase them local to reduce the transportation footprint of shipping packages), there are also a wide

variety of power strips available on the Internet. [By perusing the options](#) available on Amazon, you can get a sense of the many different types that are available and what kind might work best in your office. [Click here](#) to specifically check out options for smart power strips.