# 5 Tips for Greener Technology

**Reduce your carbon footprint and save money with these quick sustainability tips.**

### Activate Your Computer's Power Management Settings

Energy Star predicts that the average consumer could save $35 a year per computer by activating sleep mode. If sleep mode is already enabled, save more by adjusting other energy saver settings such as display brightness and Apple's Power Nap. The stricter the energy settings, the more you save!

### Purchase Green Certified Electronics

Before purchasing a new electronic device, look for products that have been green certified with labels from agencies such as EPEAT and Energy Star. Certified electronics must past strict sustainability and quality guidelines in order to optimize their overall efficiency. Each month, these devices will use less energy and save you even more money on your electricity bill!

### Eliminate Vampire Technology

Everyday, vampire technology sucks away at power supplies and causes electricity bills across the world to soar! Electronic devices that are left on when they are not being used are called vampire technology and they waste hundreds of dollars worth of electricity for consumers each year. Use a smart power strip to ensure that your unused devices are turned off.

### Donate and Recycle Your Old Electronic Devices

Each year, hundreds of millions of tons of electronic devices are thrown into the landfill, wasting rare materials and leaching toxic chemicals into the surrounding groundwater system. Fortunately, many tech companies offer recycling and refurbishing services. Visit earth911.com to find e-recycling and e-donation places near you.
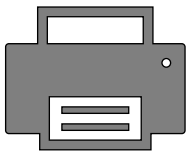
### Consolidate Redundant Appliances and Accessories

Individual workstation electronics, such as personal printers and mini fridges, require a lot of extra energy. Consolidating personal appliances into one shared device can result in large savings on each electricity bill. Make sure to donate or recycle the excess appliances to help prevent vampire technology!

# UVA Sustainable IT

UVA Sustainability created the Sustainable IT Working Group in response to the growing understanding of technology's multi-faceted impact on the environment. In order to combat technology's negative effects and promote its positive effects, the working group researches and implements a range of green technology practices, including many of the initiatives listed above, to help UVA meet its sustainability goals. The interests and skills of the working group's members include a variety of interesting topics including workstation efficiency, e-waste prevention, data center optimization, and cybersecurity. If you are interested in learning more about the relationship between sustainability and technology and/ or becoming involved with Technological sustainability initiatives on Grounds, please contact us at (434) 297-7964 or sustainableIT@virginia.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!