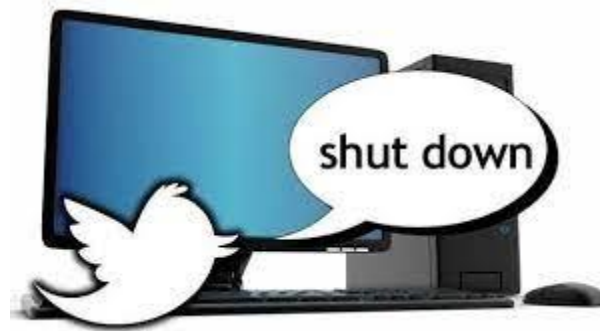


Practical no: 5

Green Computing

Green computing is environmentally responsible and eco-friendly use of computers. It is also defined by being the using and disposing of computing devices in a way that reduces their environmental contact. With today's powerful systems, not to mention the myriads of peripheral devices, the home office is an area of the house where energy is wasted and lost. In the following ways you can contribute to green computing at home:

1. Power off when not in use



Seems simple but many of us leave computers powered up for a long time. When not in use a large sum of power is being wasted, so if you're not using the computer or laptop then shut down or power off the system until needed. If you don't want to shut down, just use sleep or hibernation mode. This will help save energy and keep the system to its current state when you need it again.

2. Using power saving features



All computers include power saving options. Using these features you can command the computer to do various energy-saving tasks automatically, including shutting off unused hard disks, powering off a monitor after a given time or even placing the computer into sleep mode when not in use. This is very useful on laptop to help preserve battery life.

If you don't need super-fast computing power then look out for energy efficient components when buying a new computer, such as green hard drives and low-energy processors. While performance is slower they can use remarkably less power. Purchasing an energy saving power supply unit for a desktop PC can help the environment and save money. They're often quieter too.

3. Buy “Energy Star” labelled monitors, desktops, laptops and printers



The “Energy Star” devices can be programmed to “power-down” to a low power state when they are not in use, helping you save energy and run cooler which helps them last even longer. The Energy Star specification for computers was revised on October 20, 2006 and goes into effect July 20, 2007. The specification includes new performance requirements to qualify for the Energy Star rating for desktop and notebook computers, workstations, integrated computers, desktop-derived servers and game consoles. Now you can feel good about that upgrade!

4. E-cycle used computer equipment



Find a recycler in your area. Also, Staples, the office supply retailer, has now started a recycling program. They will accept any brands of used desktop and notebook computers, monitors, printers, fax machines and all-in-one devices with a fee of \$10. Smaller items like keyboards, mice and speakers are free to drop off.

5. Buy the new “Smart Strip” power strip



The Smart Strip actually senses how much power your computer peripherals use. And when the Smart Strip senses that you've turned your computer off, it automatically shuts off your peripherals, too, preventing them from drawing an idle current, which is the current drawn even after equipment is shut off.