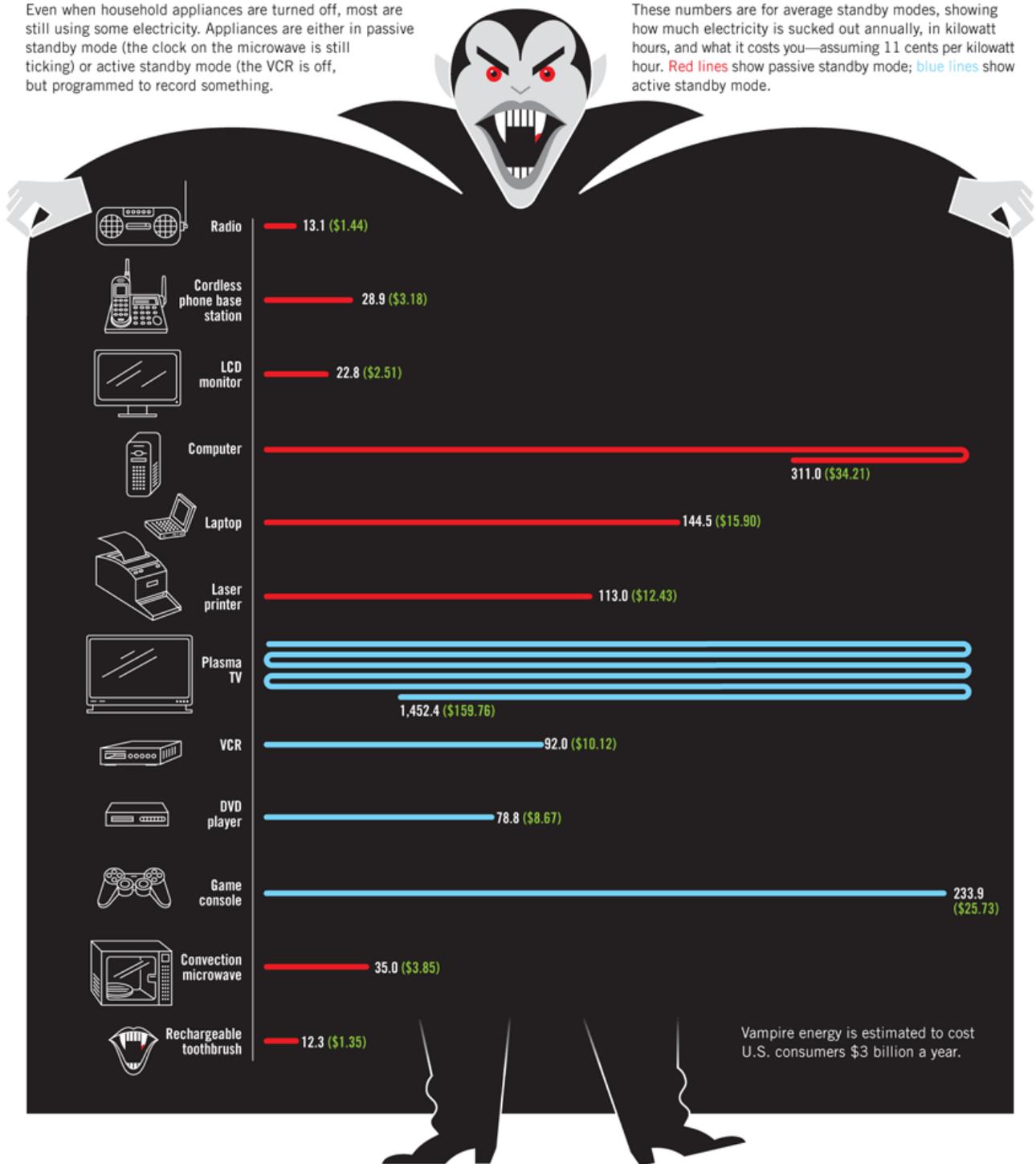


Vampire Energy

Even when household appliances are turned off, most are still using some electricity. Appliances are either in passive standby mode (the clock on the microwave is still ticking) or active standby mode (the VCR is off, but programmed to record something).

These numbers are for average standby modes, showing how much electricity is sucked out annually, in kilowatt hours, and what it costs you—assuming 11 cents per kilowatt hour. **Red lines** show passive standby mode; **blue lines** show active standby mode.



SOURCES 2005 Intrusive Residential Standby Service Report; Department of Energy

BEWARE THE **VAMPIRE POWER** THAT SUCKS YOUR **\$\$ELECTRICITY\$\$**

Vampire power (also called phantom, idle or standby power) is the electricity that your home electronics and appliances suck out of the power grid all day and night, even when you are not using them or they are switched off.

Walk through your house at dusk and notice all the digital time, temperature and channel displays, all the LED lights, remote controls, wall chargers, instant on appliances/electronics. The list of vampires includes chargers for cell phones, digital cameras and power tools, internal clocks, clock displays, LED displays, remote control sensors, cordless phones, televisions, computers, computer monitors, printers, scanners, fax machines, copiers, game consoles, DVD players, VCRs, rechargeable toothbrushes and more.



Typical phantom use is <1 to 10 watts per device; not much until you multiply it by the number of vampire devices in your home and multiply that by 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The average household has **20-40 vampire devices**.

Estimates indicate vampire power accounts for **3% to 10%** (some estimates go as high as 20%) of your electricity use. For most households, this equates to a minimum of **\$90-\$130 per year**.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates the global energy consumption due to phantom power at **200-400 terawatts** per year. The US Department of Energy estimates **\$3-4 billion** per year is wasted in America on phantom power.

Drive a Stake through Vampire Power **And TURN OFF THAT LIGHT!**

- **UNPLUG, UNPLUG** and then **UNPLUG**.
- **UNPLUG CHARGERS** from the wall when not being used.
- Use switchable **POWER STRIPS** for your computer and media equipment and **SWITCH** it OFF when not in use.
- Invest in a 'SMART' power strip – these automatically detect power down of a control device (like your computer) and automatically switch off other devices plugged into the strip. (e.g. Office Max)
- Invest in 'SMART PLUGS' (e.g. GreenSwitch www.greenswitch.tv/) – with the flip of one switch, turn off all controlled switches and outlets in your home.
- Buy **ENERGYSTAR** rated electronics and appliances – in addition to using less electricity when in use, they also have much lower phantom electricity use.
- Invest in a Kill-A-Watt electricity usage meter to determine where your vampires lurk.
- Visit www.dacc.edu/sustainability for monthly green living tips and more!