



## Green Outlets: Questions and Answers

### Q : How do the green outlets work?

The green outlets are controlled by a central clock. They power on one and a half hours before school starts and power off at 6:00 p.m. This prevents “phantom” or “vampire” loads – items that draw energy when not in use.



### Q : Why do we have green outlets?

The Seattle Energy Code requires 50% of outlets in new buildings to be green outlets. This requirement is part of the City’s strategy to meet its energy conservation goals.

### Q : What should I plug into the green outlets?

Use the outlets for items that can be turned off nightly. This includes non-networked devices, battery chargers, lamps, fans, televisions, radios, games and appliances. Do not use the green outlets for items that must stay on all the time, like fish tank filters, clocks and refrigerators. This also includes networked devices such as district-owned computers and printers, as they may receive updates overnight. All district computers have energy-saving software installed.

### Q : How do green outlets conserve energy?

When items are plugged in, even when they are “off,” they may use energy in two ways. First, anything with a remote control device still draws power to receive the signal from the remote and to stay ready for quick start-up. Second, some items consume energy while not in use due to ready lights, background processes, and clocks. These include the following:

- Battery chargers, which can use nearly as much energy when not charging as while charging;
- Games, which can run background programs that use large amounts of energy while “off;”
- Appliances like microwaves, which have unnecessary clocks.

### Q : How do I know if an outlet will turn off at night?

The outlets are green in color, and are labeled “CAREFUL: off at night.” Some outlets say “Time Controlled” to indicate that they turn off at night. White-colored, unlabeled outlets are powered 24/7 and are appropriate for items that require power overnight.

