



4/24/2013

## *News Release*

### **City of Menlo Park**

For Immediate Release: April 24, 2013

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## ***REDUCE YOUR ENERGY CONSUMPTION WITH PUBLICLY AVAILABLE KILL A WATT METER***

Menlo Park, CA – Residents are now able to check out Kill A Watt meters at the Menlo Park Library and its Belle Haven branch to assist with monitoring home electricity usage and costs. The device measures energy consumption in kilowatt hours (kWh) for specific appliances. Using this value, residents can calculate how much each appliance costs to leave plugged in, and where potential energy bill savings can be achieved.

Even when turned off, many appliances continue to draw electricity. These “phantom loads” are accrued when an appliance is in standby mode and might be seen as the red light on your DVD player, the clock of your coffeemaker, or even the seemingly idle phone charger. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that 75% of electricity used to power the average home’s electronics is consumed when the products are turned off. The Kill A Watt meter will help you to conserve energy by showing you which appliances should be unplugged when not in use, or which devices are energy inefficient and in need of an upgrade.



Check out the following review of what the Kill A Watt meter can do for your energy savings!

“The Kilo-A-Watt unit is very easy to use and helped me understand the energy usage in my house. I had a De-humidifier that was using up to \$48/Month! My spare freezer in the garage is using \$7/Month and my electric motorcycle uses less than \$.01/mile.”

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To use, simply plug the device into a wall outlet, and then plug in your appliance. Borrowing a Kill A Watt meter is just as easy. The devices are available free for you to check out for two weeks at a time at either the Menlo Park Library (800 Alma St.) or the Belle Haven Library (413 Ivy Dr.).

For more information, visit <http://menlopark.org/departments/env/KillaWattProgram.html>, call Menlo Park Environmental Programs at 330-6720, or email [recycle@menlopark.org](mailto:recycle@menlopark.org).

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