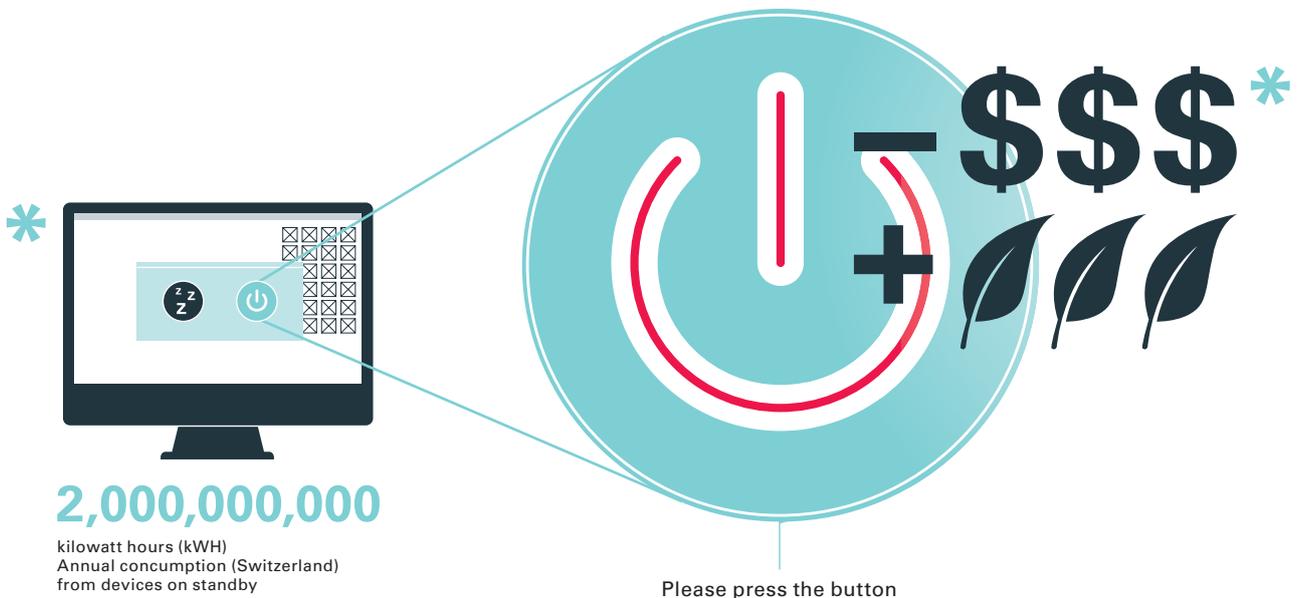


Use Energy consciously



Saving electricity is indispensable for ecological reasons and is also sensible for economic reasons in view of constantly rising energy prices. The University of Basel is a major electricity consumer. Alongside measures to optimize operations, staff and students can make a valuable contribution to reducing electricity consumption in day-to-day life at the University. Even if everybody only contributes little, 5,000 members of staff and 13,000 students can have a great impact.

Here are some tips to help you save energy and lower costs.

1. **Switch off the light**
2. **Ventilate and heat systematically**
3. **Make the correct energy savings settings on your PC**
4. **Say goodbye to standby**
5. **Use carbon-neutral search engines**
6. **Switch on the coffee machine only when needed**
7. **Buy energy-efficient devices**

1. Switch off the light

- Switch off the light when you leave a room or if it is light enough (also in seminar rooms or lecture theaters!). This also applies to fluorescent tubes.
- Always turn off the light in your office or laboratory in the evening or at the weekend.

2. Ventilate and heat systematically

Ventilating and heating correctly over the winter has a great impact on energy consumption. Even raising the room temperature by 2 °C increases energy consumption by 10-20%.

- Select the recommended room temperature of 21 °C.
- Do not regulate the room temperature by leaving the window permanently on tilt.
- Air the room in winter by fully opening the window(s) for around 5 minutes each time.
- Put as little furniture as possible directly in front of the heater.
- Turn down the temperature in your office to around 18°C over the weekend.
- Pull down the blinds in winter evenings. This is all the more important if the windows are not well insulated.
- In winter, make sure that the windows in any unused rooms are not left open and doors are kept shut.

3. Make the correct energy savings settings on your PC

Depending on the device in question, 30-55% of electricity can be saved, even as much as 60% in the case of (external) monitors, thanks to the energy savings mode.

- Switch on the energy savings mode on your PC or laptop. This enables your PC, for example, to switch in to electricity saving standby or idle mode during longer breaks in your work. You can find energy saving settings in “Power Options” in the “Control Panel”, otherwise ask the IT-Support.
- Depending on the operator’s eyesight and where the computer is located, monitor brightness can often be reduced to 25% (using the buttons on the front of the monitor). With large screens, this can reduce electricity consumption by as much as two thirds.
- Screen savers are no longer needed for modern flat screens and only burn energy unnecessarily. It’s better to switch to idle mode.

4. Say goodbye to standby

- Shut down your computer when you no longer need it or when you are taking a longer break (especially overnight and over the weekend).
- Switch off the screen when you are away for more than 15 minutes.
- Switch off printers, copiers etc. at the main switch.
- Pull chargers out of the plug after charging your device. Chargers connected to the electricity mains continue to consume electricity. The rule of thumb is: The heavier a charger is, the greater the electricity consumption.

5. Use carbon-neutral search engines

Exactly how much energy is needed for an internet search is the subject of dispute but massed use worldwide results in considerable energy requirements. While using [ecosia.org](https://www.ecosia.org) as your search engine does not reduce your electricity consumption, it does render your search carbon neutral.

6. Switch on the coffee machine only when needed

This saves up to 50% of the energy needed.

7. Buy energy-efficient devices

A lot of electricity can be saved with energy-efficient electronic devices.

- The website [topten.ch](https://www.topten.ch) allows you to compare equipment for various needs with regard to energy efficiency.
- When buying, preference should be given to equipment with an energy efficiency label: [Blue Angel](#), [Energy Star](#) or [TCO certified](#). While, taken alone, they do not constitute sustainable procurement of an adequate level, they do provide initial guidance.
- When making purchase decisions on new devices, you can also use the [EU energy label \(detailed information on efficiency classes\)](#).

“Think further ...” stands for sustainable thinking, planning and acting at the University of Basel. More information can be found at [Sustainability at the University of Basel](#)