

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Vampire appliances consume electricity even when switched off,
costing consumers \$1 billion a year**

ITHACA, N.Y. – Most homes have almost two dozen vampire appliances that consume energy even when they're turned off. These appliances cost consumers more than one billion dollars a year in energy costs.

“These appliances aren't really off but function in a stand-by mode,” says Joe Laquatra, a housing and energy expert at Cornell University. “They continuously use power so their features will continue to work when they're switched off, such as a videocassette recorder (VCR) recording programs when no one is home.” An energy-thirsty TV, for example, may cost more than \$14 a year for energy consumed when it's off. “With many vampire appliances in a typical home, the cost to feed energy-slurping vampires adds up quickly,” Laquatra adds.

To minimize energy consumption by vampire appliances in your home, plug appliances into fuse-protected power strips that can be totally switched off if you don't need the stand-by features. Also, look for appliances with the ENERGY STAR[®] label; these appliances are guaranteed to use far less energy than standard appliances. Saving energy not only means saving money, but by saving electricity it also helps to prevent air pollution.

For more energy saving ideas, visit www.GetEnergySmart.org, or contact EDUCATOR at COUNTY NAME Cornell Cooperative Extension at PHONE NUMBER.

Joe Laquatra is the director of an educational project, Consumer Education Program for Residential Energy Efficiency, funded by the **New York Energy \$martSM** Program, to better inform the public through Cornell Cooperative Extension on the different ways to save energy - and - money in the home and how to take advantage of incentives to reduce energy use.

New York Energy \$martSM programs, which are a statewide initiative sponsored by NYSERDA, are designed to lower electricity costs by encouraging energy efficiency as the State's electric utilities move to competition. All **New York Energy \$martSM** programs are funded by a System Benefits Charge (SBC) paid by electric distribution customers of Central Hudson, Con Edison, NYSEG, Niagara Mohawk, Orange and Rockland, and Rochester Gas and Electric. The programs are available to electricity distribution customers (residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial) who pay into the SBC. NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation established by law in 1975, administers SBC funds under an agreement with the Public Service Commission.

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