Vampire Power: Slaying energy use in the consumer electronic supply chain

Wednesday, October 31, 2012
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
University of California Center Sacramento
1130 K Street, Room LL3, Sacramento, CA

Vampires are lurking all around us. Vampire power refers to the power used by your television, DVR, cellphone charger, etc. when they are turned off or otherwise not doing what you bought them for. Today, low power mode energy use accounts for about 15% of regular household electricity consumption. With over 2.9 billion consumer electronics devices in the US and growing, there is a tremendous opportunity for consumers and policy-makers to identify solutions for reducing vampire loads and otherwise improving energy efficiency in these devices. Through supply-chain improvements and new technologies we can significantly reduce energy consumption which will benefit consumers and energy providers alike.

This session will look at new innovations that can minimize unnecessary energy usage and how California policy-makers are helping to realize these savings through research, new standards, and incentives. Businesses will discuss new technological innovations, including those incorporated within devices and separate from them to better manage energy use without sacrificing utility. The California Energy Commission (CEC) will outline recent “plug-load” regulatory proceedings on consumer electronics and leading academic researchers will present recent data on electronic energy use and new technologies.

This policy forum will ask the following key questions:

1. How much energy is used by popular electronic devices like computers, servers, TVs, and set top boxes and where are the greatest energy savings opportunities?
2. How does electronic device energy use impact overall building energy consumption?
3. Where are the greatest technological innovations occurring in consumer electronic devices and how will these influence future energy use patterns?
4. How can energy saving innovations play a role in guiding state appliance standards and vice versa?

In honor of the Halloween season, the person with the best costume at this event as judged by our panel will receive a Smart Electronic Initiative Vampire Slaying kit!