



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUL 28 2008

**TO:** Agency Chief Information Officers

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**SUBJECT:** Required Workstation Energy Conservation Settings

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) strongly supports the President's initiative to conserve energy in the Federal government. For all employee workstations, USDA will be requiring a standard configuration policy on the computer to conserve energy.

1. **Monitor Background and Screensaver**— Agencies are to remove graphical backgrounds and provide, by system policy, a black background; agencies are also to remove the graphical screensavers and, by system policy, require a black screensaver.

Electric Savings = Approximately 4 watts per computer per hour for approximately 118,000 computers. This totals 113,280 KWh per year. The savings equals operating 12,414 halogen light bulbs for 24 hours per day for a full year.

Total USDA Carbon Savings = 86.94 tons per year (1.535/KWh)

Total USDA Dollar Savings = \$11,328 (.09 per KWh)

2. **Monitor Sleep Mode**— USDA requires agencies, by system policy, to ensure that the power management system be set to shut the monitor off after 15 minutes of inactivity.

Electric Savings = Approximately 90 watts per computer per hour for approximately 118,000 computers during non-working hours. This totals 62,020,800 KWh per year.

Total USDA Carbon Savings = 47,601 tons per year (1.535/KWh)

Total USDA Dollar Savings = \$5,581,872 (.09 per KWh)

3. ***Hibernate Mode*** – USDA requires agencies by system policy to require that the power management system be set to hibernate the system after 30 minutes of inactivity.

Electric Savings = Approximately 84 watts per computer per hour for approximately 118,000 computers during non-working hours. This totals 57,886,080 KWh per year.

Total USDA Carbon Savings = 44,427 tons per year (1.535/KWh)

Total USDA Dollar Savings = \$5,209,747 (.09 per KWh)

While the savings noted above are only rough estimates, the savings in carbon, electric usage, and dollars is large. With the implementation of these policies, USDA can reduce carbon usage by 92,114 tons each year. This is equivalent to the amount of carbon produced by 108,305 cars per year.

We appreciate all employees helping to reduce power consumption by adhering to the USDA system configuration for power management settings.