

Give the Gift of Energy Efficiency

When it comes to shopping for and comparing appliances and home electronics, look for the EnergyGuide and Energy Star labels to ensure the energy-efficiency credentials of the product inside the box.

The Federal Trade Commission requires yellow EnergyGuide labels on most home appliances, except ranges and ovens. The labels provide an estimate of the product's energy consumption or energy efficiency, and compare it to the highest and lowest energy consumption or efficiency estimates of similar appliance models.

On home electronics such as computers, televisions and home audio equipment, look for blue Energy Star labels indicating they have met strict energy-efficiency criteria established by the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Ensuring what you take home is energy efficient can make a big difference. The average home has two TVs, three telephones and a DVD player. If replaced with Energy Star-qualified models, more than 25 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions a year would be saved—equivalent to removing more than 2 million cars from the road.

Home electronics with clock displays and remote controls use energy even when switched off, costing U.S. households \$100 a year. Energy Star products use less energy to perform “standby” functions, while providing the same performance and features.

Using less energy preserves energy resources, while saving money on energy bills. An energy-efficient gift is truly a gift that keeps on giving.

For more information, visit www.eere.energy.gov or www.energystar.gov. ■

