



TACKLE-A-STEALER CHALLENGE

www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com

Player Information

Thank you for participating in the Tackle-A-Stealer Challenge! You and your team are competing against other groups around Pittsburgh for great prizes -- all while saving energy and cutting greenhouse gas and air pollution!

What's a stealer?

Energy stealers are electronic devices that consume power when they're turned off. According to ENERGY STAR, this kind of power (also called "vampire power") accounts for about **10% of all energy usage in the United States**. The average U.S. household pays those stealers an extra \$100 per year *while they're off or in standby mode*. Nationally, energy stealers consume more than \$10 billion in annual energy costs.

How can I tackle stealers?

You can tackle energy stealers in your home by following these steps:

1. Find energy stealers. Common energy stealers include:

- televisions
- laptop and cell phone chargers
- computer monitors and speakers
- game consoles
- printers
- DVD players
- VCRs
- microwaves
- cordless phone base stations
- audio systems
- iPod and electronic battery chargers
- rechargeable toothbrushes

You can use the Belkin meter to measure the energy use of these kinds of devices in your home. Plug the meter into any standard outlet, and plug your device into the meter. See how much energy different devices use, both when turned on and turned off. For more information on how to use the meter, visit www.theBlackandGoldCityGoesGreen.com, where you can find an instructional video.

2. Make a game plan. Size up your stealers. Pick the biggest stealers, the stealers you use most, or ones that maybe you never even use but have plugged in all the time. Measure their energy use when turned

off. Also measure annual CO₂ emissions and annual dollars spent. Record that information on the postcard-sized reporting sheet included in this kit.

3. Tackle your stealer! Use a power strip to cut power when not in use, or simply unplug the device. Computers can be programmed to low-energy sleep or stand-by modes. You may also consider replacing your current device with one that doesn't steal energy, or get rid of it altogether if it's something you don't use.

4. Record your tackle. Record how much energy, carbon, and money you saved by tackling stealers in your home on the sheets provided. Consult your Head Coach to find out how reporting sheets are being collected. Your numbers could win you and/or your team prizes!

5. Pass this box on to a friend, family member, or co-worker. Find out how your team is passing the kit from one person to the next. Tell others about the competition and about energy stealers and get them on your team. The more people that get the kit, the better chance your team has of tackling the most stealers and winning!

The contest ends September 18th. If you have this kit after that date, please notify your organization's Head Coach.

What's in it for me?

Saving energy means saving money. All of the energy saved from tackling stealers is money in your pocket. See how much you get by locking out those stealers by using the Belkin meter.

At the Black and Gold City Goes Green, we want to reward you for being an energy champion. We have great prizes for the team that tackles the most stolen energy, the person that tackled the biggest stealer, and other categories. See www.theBlackandGoldCityGoesGreen.com for a list of prizes.

Last but not least, you're playing for bragging rights. Let Pittsburgh know how great your team is by giving your team a shout-out or posting pictures on Facebook, mentioning them on Twitter, and tackling the most stealers to be the winners!

Good luck!

Want to do more? Visit www.theBlackandGoldCityGoesGreen.com to see how else you can save energy, water, gasoline, and money. Join the campaign and help us make Pittsburgh even cooler!