

Computer Power Savings Policy

(Approved 4/27/09)

Currently, there are 1890 computers in computer labs, offices, and classrooms on the Hollins University campus. In order to reduce our production of greenhouse gases and save money, the Environmental Advisory Board recommends that we establish a university policy to reduce unnecessary computer power consumption. As such, we recommend that IT enable all power management settings that come with Dell computers. The following will result for end users:

After 15 minutes of inactivity the computer will be put on *Standby*. (“Standby reduces the power consumption of your computer by cutting power to hardware components you are not using. Standby can cut power to peripheral devices, your monitor, even your hard drive, but maintains power to your computer's memory so you don't lose your work.”¹ Pressing a key on the keyboard or jiggling the mouse will quickly bring the computer out of Standby.

Caveat: Because Standby does not save your desktop state to disk, a power failure can cause unsaved information to be lost.)

After 60 minutes of inactivity the computer will be put in *Hibernation*. (“Hibernate saves an image of your desktop with all open files and documents, and then it powers down your computer. When you turn on power, your files and documents are open on your desktop exactly as you left them.”¹ To bring your computer out of Hibernation, you must touch the on/off switch lightly. Note: In this case, a power failure will not cause unsaved information to be lost.)

We recommend IT implement this at the end of the academic year. We are currently investigating software that will allow us to push power management settings to MAC users but in the meantime encourage MAC users to power manage their individual computers. Additionally, we intend to implement these settings with our students when they return to campus next year.

In addition, all campus computer users are encouraged to turn their computers off when they leave their offices for extended periods, or at the end of each work day.

¹ <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/mobility/getstarted/hibernate.mspx>