

## Environment agency's green project cuts down energy consumption

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Abu Dhabi: The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD) last week completed a project where it "greened" its IT. Their Information and Communication Technology (ICT) eco-footprint will now be managed through a comprehensive life-cycle programme.

As part of the project, EAD conducted a computer usage audit, which revealed that the majority of energy consumption was spent on electricity and IT.

Awareness signs encouraging reduced use of energy and paper were displayed over every printer, scanner and photocopier. All EAD's IT purchases became compliant with the Energy Star, which saves 15-20 per cent on our energy expenditure.

All CRT monitors were replaced with LCD monitors, and desktops were replaced with laptops.

Ultimately, this will help reduce energy consumption at EAD by at least 50 per cent. An electronic data management system was also introduced, whereby all network printers and copiers were configured to automatically switch to Sleep Mode, if left inactive for a long period of time. Last week, EAD employees marked this project with "an hour without IT."

During this hour, employees shut down all computers and printers and switched off their mobile phones in a symbolic move to highlight the growing eco-footprint of ICT in our personal and professional lives.

At the end of the one hour, EAD's employee signed a pledge agreeing to make substantial changes in the office and in their own daily lives to reduce their own ecological footprint.

(Gulf News)