

SUPC Eco-Button Report

I was given a free Eco-button at a sustainability event in London (I believe it was the Government Opportunities National Sustainable Procurement Conference in March 2008 but there are now so many of these events that I wouldn't like to bet on it!).

The button was promoted as saving you energy (Co2) and money, stats and details on their website, www.eco-button.com. I set the eco-button up in April, following the very easy instructions, and used the basic computer settings suggested.

The eco-button shuts down the computer to a state of very low energy consumption (exact figures can be found on their website), it is far better than just leaving the computer to go to screen saver.

The website suggests using the eco-button whenever you leave your computer – meeting, lunch, toilet stop, cup of tea, etc. To start with I followed this but soon realised that with a password protected computer that it could take a while for the computer to power up again after being on eco-save, especially Outlook. I now only use the eco-button when away from my desk for lunch and meetings.

All in all the eco-button has been successful and it has the added benefit of protecting your computer whilst you are away as a password is required to open it back up. I must admit I don't always remember to eco-save whilst away but probably do about 80% of the time. Since April I have saved the following:

7.41kg of Co2, and £2.76 hard cash

The above is just my experience with the eco-button and other computers may behave differently. Generally it has been very good and is a great talking point with new people in the office!

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