

David Hauck: Energy savings almost became a game with me. I really wanted to start saying where else could I shave off a few kilowatt-hours a month and, you know, reduce my natural gas use? One thing that I -- that I came across is something called phantom loads.

I'd never heard of this before. Phantom loads are anything in your house that has a little red dot on it that keeps shining after you turn it off. It could be your -- your television, it can be cell phone recharges, it can be your toaster. And they're all around your house. It's your -- it's your computer. So, even after you've turned them off, they continue to draw a little bit of power. By -- by plugging as many of these as you can into a -- a power strip, and at the end of the day, you just hit one switch on it, and it cuts the power off to everything that's plugged into it.

I just love it when I open up my utility bill and see that I'm using less electricity, uh, this year than I did a year ago, and so I'm saving energy, and I love saving money, because electric rates are going to continue to go up.