

This Week's Friday Report



San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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Upcoming Events

Mar 27 - Telemundo Hispanic Business Salute: Telemundo/KSTS-TV48 And Eighteen Hispanic Chambers Of Commerce Honor And Recognize Six Bay Area Latino Business Leaders At The 2009 Hispanic Business Salute

Check the "Mark Your Calendars" Section for more information about these events.

WEATHER

San Francisco Weekend Weather

Saturday 14	Sunday 15
Golf Course Finder	Gardening Outlook
 <p>High 57°F Low 51°F</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy</p>	 <p>High 57°F Low 53°F</p> <p>Few Showers</p>
Precip: 10%	Precip: 30%

NEWS

Energy vampires: Fact versus fiction

By Lori Bongiorno

It's well-known that most electronic devices in our homes are [sucking up energy](#) even while they are turned off. But for all the information out there, many questions remain. I got hundreds of reader questions after writing the post [What's wasting energy in your home right now](#). Below are answers to the five most common inquiries:

Which electronic devices waste the most energy when they are turned off but still plugged in?

Set-top cable boxes and digital video recorders are some of the biggest energy hogs. Unfortunately, there's little consumers can do since television shows can't be taped if boxes are unplugged. It also typically takes a long time to reboot boxes.

However, some of the other [major consumers](#) of standby power are more easily dealt with: computers, multifunction printers, flat-screen TVs, DVDs, VCRs, CD players, power tools, and hand-held vacuums. The Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) measured standby power for [a long list of products](#).

While it's true each individual product draws relatively little standby power, the LBNL says that when [added together, standby power can amount to 10% of residential energy](#) use.

Why do electronic devices use energy when they are switched off?

Electronics consume standby power for one of two reasons, says Chris Kielich of the Department of Energy. They either have an adapter that will continue to draw electricity, or they have devices (such as clocks and touchpads) that draw power. Anything with a remote control will also draw standby power, she says, since the device needs to be able to detect the remote when it's pushed.

Does everything suck energy when it's plugged in and turned off?

No. If your coffeemaker or toaster doesn't have a clock, then it's probably not using standby power, says Kielich. Chances are your hair dryer and lamps (although they may have a power adapter for the dimmer) are not drawing standby power either, she says. Devices with a [switch that physically breaks the circuit](#) don't consume standby power.

Will switching things on and off shorten their life?

Probably not, says Kielich. You'd have to turn devices on and off thousands of times to shorten their lives. The real downside, she says, to unplugging electronics is that clocks and remotes will not work, and you do have to reset everything.

Can you ruin batteries by unplugging battery chargers and causing batteries to completely discharge?

It could be a possibility, says Kielich. Her advice: Don't let batteries get completely drained. But you don't need to have things like hand-held power vacuums and drills plugged into the charger when it's 100% charged, or even 50% charged.

Power Strip FAQs

Plugging electronics into a power strip and turning it off when you're not using it is a widely prescribed solution for curbing vampire power. Here are answers to common questions:

- Power strips draw energy when they are turned on, but not when they are switched off.
- Any decent power strip should have surge protection, according to Kielich. Flicking your power strip on and off will not create a power surge capable of damaging electronic devices. In fact, it will protect devices from other surges.
- Several readers were worried about the possibility of fires caused by plugging too many things in at once. If you plug in the allowed number of devices, then power strips are safe, says Kielich. Just don't plug your power strip into another power strip, or you run the risk of creating an overload.

Feds' Minority Contracts In Peril

By David Hendricks - Express-News

All aspects of federal contracting programs favoring minority-owned businesses have been turned upside down by an injunction issued by a judge in San Antonio. The order also affects historically black and Hispanic-serving universities, long reliant on federal military contracts, which now will have to compete for contracts previously reserved for them. Issued Thursday by U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez, the injunction is the culmination of a decadelong lawsuit filed by a San Antonio company that successfully challenged the constitutionality of minority preferences in the military and space programs.

The ruling, however, reaches beyond those agencies. The U.S. government admitted the same discrimination statistical data that was contested in Rothe Development Inc.'s lawsuit is used throughout the federal system, said David Barton, a San Antonio lawyer who represents Rothe. The admission opens the door for contractors to legally contest lucrative federal procurement, services and construction contracts granted to minority contractors under preference programs across the nation, including many contracts already in existence.

Barton said that in the government's briefing to Rodriguez's court on the injunction language, the U.S. Justice Department acknowledged the statistical data Congress used to authorize the military's minority contracting program are the same used by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the U.S. Transportation Department for minority-based contracting for procurement and construction. "That means those programs are also unconstitutional," Barton said. "They will have to be challenged in court to enforce that fact, but (this injunction) will facilitate successful attacks on both of those programs."

Thousands of minority-owned companies across the nation seek 8(a) certification from the SBA, which allows them to win procurement contracts from all federal agencies on a preferential basis, often without facing competitive bids. The minority contracting program administered by the Transportation Department, which gives preferences for street and bridge construction to minority firms, also can be contested by other contractors, forcing the transportation agency to re-bid contracts on an open, non-race basis. The Transportation Department also could be prohibited, in a follow-up court case, from sending money to state and local government transportation agencies

that contract with minority firms in a race-based preferential program, said Barton with the Gardner Law Firm.

"I have people talking to me right now who are interested in taking up cases," he said. "There will be a lot of consequences for what Congress has done. There will be issues for the government to deal with." The financial effect of the injunction on colleges and universities couldn't be determined last week. Those with large minority enrollments have relied on federal contracts that pay for academic programs, scholarships, military research laboratories and expanded Reserve Officer Training Corps activities. Barton said Anglo-owned companies now can challenge any existing federal contract won by a minority-owned firm if the contract was awarded under a preferential program after Jan. 1, 2006, the last time Congress authorized the minority preferential contracting law.

Minority-program contracts awarded before 2006 also are vulnerable if the contracts have options that were exercised after Jan. 1, 2006, Barton added. Rothe Development, owned by a San Antonio Anglo woman, Suzanne Patenaude, sued the government after it was not awarded a computer-and-communications contract at a federal facility, even though the firm's original bid was \$180,000 lower than a company owned by a South Korean couple. Patenaude couldn't be reached for comment Saturday. The U.S. District Court in San Antonio three times ruled against Rothe Development, but each time the district court ruling was overturned by the federal appeals court in Washington.

The appeals court said the discrimination statistical data used by Congress to justify minority contracting was insufficient. On Nov. 4, it ordered Rodriguez to issue a final judgment and injunction. The U.S. Justice Department decided not to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court by a Feb. 2 deadline, making the military's and NASA's minority-contracting program unconstitutional. "It's going to be interesting," U.S. Rep. Charles Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, said recently about the fallout from the Rothe Development case. "Perhaps there are some distinctions that need to be tweaked," Gonzalez said of the statistical data used by Congress to establish the minority contracting preferential programs. Gonzalez added that the U.S. House Small Business Committee, headed by U.S. Rep. Nydia Velázquez, D-New York, is looking into steps Congress can take to restore minority contracting programs to a legal status.

2/27/09 - S.F. Looks to Capitalize on Carbon Cap Push

By Lindsay Riddell, *San Francisco Business Times*

The carbon cap boom may be coming to San Francisco. The 20-or-so San Francisco companies already established to create, audit and verify greenhouse gas emission reductions and to sell and trade the offsets born from those reductions, expect to see a lot of growth as federal and state programs tackle carbon emissions. President Obama called for a federal cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in his first address to a joint session of Congress on Feb. 24 and California is preparing for mandated greenhouse gas emissions reductions in 2012. A majority of states have already set greenhouse gas reduction targets and federal legislation is being developed. If San Francisco can establish itself as a carbon and climate capital, it could be the beneficiary of lots of tax-paying companies that bring high-wage jobs, fill office buildings and support Mayor Newsom's push to make San Francisco a preeminent green city.

"If you can figure out a way to really bring market forces to bare on solving our environmental challenges, that could generate an enormous amount of economic activity and that would be great to have that centered here," said David Pascal, the clean technology and green business advocate for the city. In that vein, Pascal has organized the Carbon Collaborative, which pulls together interests from carbon-focused businesses to figure out how to support the growth and development of a carbon market here. The match-up is natural, said Pascal, given the city's finance and entrepreneurial resources, links to Pacific Rim nations and a broad commitment to the environment. More than 60 people from about 50 companies showed up to the first meetings the Carbon Collaborative held in mid-February.

Lee West, who's made a career of incubating hedge funds and who has offered up his offices at One Bush St. to house and incubate carbon- and climate-focused companies, is working to form a carbon exchange for trading carbon offsets. "My goal is to bring companies together to the city and make San Francisco the West Coast hub

and create a financial center (around carbon markets)," said West. The first to occupy West's office is DNV, one of the largest carbon reduction project auditors. San Francisco has some advantages in attracting carbon-focused companies including that the Bay Area has good relations and business ties with Pacific Rim countries and China is one of the heaviest producers of greenhouse gases. Any strides the United States makes in reducing its carbon impact won't improve the global output if China and India don't also make significant improvements. Many Bay Area companies are thinking about how to solve the climate change problem globally.

The Bay Area also distributes and receives the lion's share of the venture capital dollars invested in clean technology, which focuses on mitigating climate change problems and ranges from biofuel technology to advanced batteries to building materials. San Francisco itself has made a major commitment to the environment, enacting some of the most stringent green building codes in the country and joining with San Jose and Oakland to install infrastructure like electrical vehicle recharging outlets. The same group plans to sign a climate compact March 6 on region-wide initiatives to reduce environmental impacts. Dan Kalafatas, president of 3Degrees Inc., which helps corporations reduce their carbon output, said San Francisco companies have shown early interest in cutting their environmental impact, making the city an obvious place for carbon-focused companies to locate.

"At a cultural level, the combination of entrepreneurial value and environmental value creates a context here for a company like ours, where we can benefit substantially in terms of the employee pool, customer demand and customer interest," said Kalafatas, whose customers include Safeway Inc., Ebay Inc. and Autodesk Inc. But, he said, the city faces challenges in becoming a hub. "It's not a banking center," Kalafatas said. "Right now, London is the carbon capital of the world. And New York and London are going to battle it out for what is the future carbon capital, and it's going to be very hard for any other city to (get into that battle)." Presenting another challenge: Though the city wants to support the carbon collaboration, it's unlikely it will do so with cash.

"I think for the city to build the tax base, I think they're going to have to figure out a way to invest to make it something significant, because it's much easier to set up a company down south," said Chris Erickson, CEO of San Francisco-based Climate Earth, which helps companies develop climate strategies.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mar 27 - Telemundo Hispanic Business Salute: Telemundo/KSTS-TV48 And Eighteen Hispanic Chambers Of Commerce Honor And Recognize Six Bay Area Latino Business Leaders At The 2009 Hispanic Business Salute



SAN JOSE, CA - February 04, 2009 - Telemundo/KSTS-TV48 and eighteen Northern California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce from the Bay Area Counties have selected six honorees to be recognized during the 14th Annual Hispanic Business Salute on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose.

Every year, Telemundo/KSTS-TV 48 and its sponsors recognize outstanding Bay Area Latino entrepreneurs at the Annual Business Salute. The awards ceremony focuses on Hispanic owned businesses and their contributions to the Latino community by presenting a series of television vignettes that feature each honoree's life experiences

and their successes. "They truly represent the hard working spirit of our community and with their example inspire and mentor our future generation of Hispanic leaders," said Cesar Angulo, VP of Sales of Telemundo/KSTS-TV48.

Each year at HBS, Telemundo 48 and its sponsors present scholarships to outstanding college bound Latino students. To date, more than \$250,000 dollars in scholarships have been granted.

For more information and media interviews, please contact Daniel Rodriguez at 408-944-4851.

EVENTS BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Mar 16 ? San Francisco's Businesses Welcome Our New Supervisors

John Avalos ? District 11, David Campos ? District 9, David Chiu ? District 3, Eric Mar ? District 1 will attend the wine and hors d'oeuvre reception at the Old Mint Building located at 5th and Mission Streets from 6p-8p.

The event is co-hosted by the San Francisco Council of District Merchants, and the Small Business Network.

For more information, visit www.sfsbn.org

Mar 26 - Latino Community Foundation 4th Annual Gala- Celebrating Philanthropy con Sabor Latino!

Join the Latino Community Foundation on March 26, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. for its upcoming gala. The event will honor a distinguished community, philanthropic and corporate leader, Dr. Herman Gallegos. Dr. Gallegos is one of the founders of the Latino Community Foundation. The gala will feature Latino restaurants and wineries including: Alex Sotelo Cellars, Colibri Mexican Bistro, Destino Nuevo Latino Bistro, Frias Family Vineyard, La Calle Asadero Mexicano, Robledo Family Winery, Sol Food Puerto Rican Cuisine, Tamarindo Antojerías Mexicanas, and Zazil Coastal Mexican Cuisine. The event will be at the Westin St. Francis located at 335 Powell Street in San Francisco's Union Square. Tickets are \$200/each and individual sponsorships begin at \$1,500/table, please visit our website at www.latinocf.org for more information.

FEATURED MEMBERS

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Chamber members have access to exclusive benefits that build relationships, increase visibility, and generate business leads. They're the first to learn about economic trends and developments that shape the City's business environment and their own companies' growth. And they influence decision makers in San Francisco and beyond, helping ensure that San Francisco means business-in every sense. Welcome additions to the San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Memberships can be purchased online using the following link:

<https://sfhccregistration.chamberbusinesssuite.com/>

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