

## GREEN TECH TRACKER

## THE POWER-HUNGRY DIGITAL LIFESTYLE

A report by the British government agency Energy Saving Trust states that new tech devices are projected to consume 50 percent of a household's power usage—a significant increase. This chart shows the current energy hogs—heating, cooling, and appliances—and the comparatively small consumption of older tech gadgets. But notice how the newer, larger, and more powerful computers and TVs are catching up.

APPLIANCE/DEVICE	WATTS	KILOWATT HOURS USED PER MONTH *	COST PER MONTH **
Medium-size window unit AC	900	335	\$33.00
Water heater	3,800	236	\$23.00
High-end gaming PC	500	186	\$18.30
Refrigerator	400	99.2	\$10.29
Computer and 17-inch CRT	240	89	\$8.80
Plasma TV (average size)	328	10.2	\$4.00
Clothes dryer	5,000	39	\$3.80
Oven	3,500	27	\$2.70
Dishwasher	1,800	13	\$1.95
19-inch CRT TV	75	9.3	\$0.90
Microsoft Xbox 360	187	5.8	\$0.60
Sony PlayStation 3	197	6.1	\$0.60
Hair dryer	1,500	3.9	\$0.40
Microwave oven	1,500	3.9	\$0.40

For more on green technology, visit our new blog, *GoodCleanTech* ([www.goodcleantech.com](http://www.goodcleantech.com))

\* Kilowatt hours based on estimated daily or monthly usage. \*\* Cost based on the U.S. national average of 9.6 cents per kilowatt hour. Sources: Wisconsin Public Service Corp., Energy Saving Trust, Michael Bluejay, MHI, Hardware.info.

Sacramento is 8.66 ¢/kwh for 1st 200 kwh each month

## CONNECTED TRAVELER SURVIVAL TECH

Essential gear for extreme travelers.

Whether you're scuba diving the Great Barrier Reef or hiking the back country of Utah, having the right technology can be vital if you get lost or stranded. Here are some tech tools that can help avoid a crisis situation.

A good GPS device can be even more important off the road. Whether a standalone device or an app for your smartphone, your GPS should include a pedestrian feature. The **Mio DigiWalker C220** (\$249 list, [go.pcmag.com/digiwalker](http://go.pcmag.com/digiwalker)) is a reasonably priced option. Another good choice is the waterproof, rugged **Verizon G'zOne Type-S** cell phone (\$199 list, [go.pcmag.com/gzone-s](http://go.pcmag.com/gzone-s)), paired with **Verizon's VZ Navigator** tool (\$9.99 per month).

For traveling abroad, you should make sure your cell phone works in every destination, or rent one when you get there. In remote areas, you may want a rock-solid satellite phone like the **Iridium 9505A** (\$1,500 street). They're not cheap, but they could end up saving your skin.

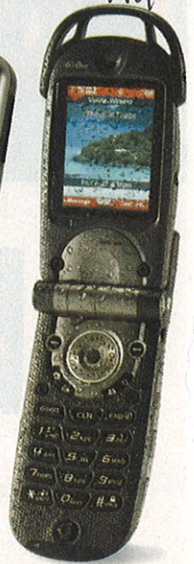
The finest gadgetry is useless if it runs out of power. Fortunately, the sun can be your outlet. With a solar-charging device such as the **Voltaic Backpack** (\$250 street) or the **Brando Universal Solar Charger** (\$70 direct), you'll have the juice you need in a pinch.—Aaron Dalton



Mio DigiWalker C220



Voltaic Backpack



Verizon G'zOne



**A SURVIVOR'S STORY** A few years ago, on the first day of a 45-day solo hike in the Spanish Pyrenees, Lori McGuire got lost in the woods after dark. Fortunately, Lori had brought a satellite phone. She called relatives in the States, who in turn contacted the U.S. embassy in Madrid. The embassy organized a search party. Before the searchers could arrive, Lori tumbled down a steep hill, smashing her phone, and ended up clinging to a tree for dear life. When the searchers found her the next day, she had frostbite on one foot, but she says the satellite phone saved her life. Since then, Lori has climbed Kilimanjaro, and she hopes to scale Everest one day. In addition to a satellite phone, she now takes along a GPS—and some companions.—AD