

Eco-friendly technology

Merkury Neo Speakers:

These aren't just earth-friendly, they're also awfully cute.

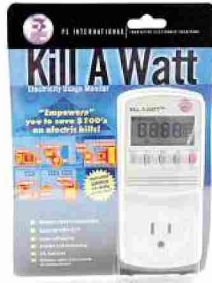
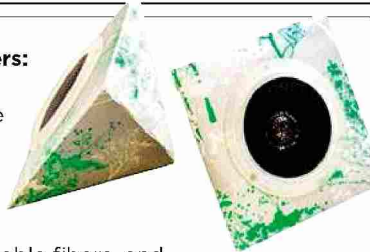
Merkury's Neo Speakers are made from recycled

materials and sustainable fibers, and they don't need to be plugged into an electrical outlet. Just attach them to the headphone jack on your computer or MP3 player, and voila!

Low-energy music. They also fold flat for shipping.

Available in green and pink for \$9.99 at amazon.com.

— Jenifer D. Braun



Kill A Watt: Plug an appliance using up to 15 amps into the Kill A Watt electricity power monitor and its LCD screen will show you how much power the unit is using. \$29.95 at cableorganizer.com or (866) 222-0030. The company also sells another energy meter called Watts Up, which measures energy usage and also shows just how much the

appliance is costing you.

— Kimberly L. Jackson



Liebherr refrigerators:

Liebherr refrigerators claim to be the "greenest" in the world. The entire line of the Germany-based company's fridges meet or exceed the new (April 2008) Energy Star standards, but that's just the beginning. The company has also removed harmful chemicals like mercury, cadmium and lead from their products, reduced the use of solvents in their manufacturing process, and purifies all the water that runs out of its plants. They're also quite pretty. Of course, you pay for the green and the glam — the Liebherr refrigerator shown here is \$2,899; other models go up to \$6,599. Available at **Expo Design Center** stores in Bridgewater and Paramus.

— Jenifer D. Braun

Solio charger: Energy-efficient, portable, and environmentally friendly; this is what you get with the Solio Hybrid 1000 charger. The water-resistant device has a solar panel with an enclosed battery in a compact case. With the "green" charger, users will be able to charge most PDAs, MP3 players and digital cameras. Have the sun charge the unit, which will take



10-12 hours, or hook up an included USB cable to a computer for a six-hour charge. Just one hour of sunshine will give a cell phone about 15 minutes of talk time or 40 minutes of music.

Available for \$95 at amazon.com.

— Gregg Ellman,

McClatchy-Tribune News Service



Smart Strip power strip: It looks just like a surge protector. And it is one, but it's also a tiny energy miser. The Smart Strip Power Strip senses how much power is being used. When its sensors determine that you've shut off your computer, it automatically shuts off all your peripherals (your printer, etc.) and stops

them from running on "idle" power — the low level of power those electronics run on even after you think you've turned them off. Available for \$39.95 at smarthomeusa.com or (888) 843-9103.

— Jenifer D. Braun

