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GAMES consoles such as the Sony Playstation 3 can burn up to five times the energy of a medium sized refrigerator, a study has found.

Consumer group Choice found that a Sony Playstation 3, switched on but not used, could cost \$250 a year in electricity while a fridge would cost less than \$50.

Plasma television sets were among the top energy guzzlers, consuming more energy as a traditional analogue set.

The average desktop PC, tested independently of its monitor, was third on the list of energy consumers.

However, the PC's Apple equivalent, the iMac, an all-in-one model with a built-in monitor, used only two-thirds of the energy consumed by a monitor-less PC.

LCD computer monitors were found to use only about half as much energy as traditional tube monitors.

Choice said computers and computer products should be subject to the energy efficiency labelling scheme for whitegoods in Australia, to help consumers choose energy-efficient models.

An ACNielsen report in 2007 found 95 per cent of Australians would support the scheme.

Choice spokesman Christopher Zinn said he hoped the results of the study would be passed on to the public.

"While we hope no one actually leaves their games console on for a whole year, the study is indicative of just how much electricity these small devices can chew their way through.

The study found devices on standby could cost just \$15 a year.