

# Green message – turn off appliances earlier

STOPPING work three hours earlier is not just good for worker morale, it helps the environment as well.

Photocopier vendor Ricoh Asia Pacific saves more than 100 kilowatt-hours a month – enough to power an HDB flat for about one month – by turning off its lights and electrical appliances three hours earlier than usual once a month.

“It (the energy saved) is not a lot, but if many companies do it, then we can make a difference,” said Ms Masayo Hada, assistant manager of Ricoh’s regional environmental management group.

Now they are trying to spread the message to other companies with the Ricoh Eco Action pro-

gramme, jointly organised with the Singapore Environment Council.

By early June, Ricoh hopes at least 100 companies – big and small – will do their part for the environment. The goal is to raise awareness of World Environment Day, which falls on June 5.

Participating companies simply need to pledge to turn off electrical appliances of their choice – including computer monitors, fans and even air-conditioners – after official office hours on that day.

For employees, this will, of course, mean no overtime.

“People love it because they get to go home earlier,” Ms Masayo joked.

**To register for Eco Action e-mail: info@ecooffice.com.sg. The closing date is May 28.**