

Youth Energy Efficiency Ambassadors



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Product Review: Kasa Smart Wifi Plug

A review by Alex Vick, Youth EE Ambassador since 2019

I am using the **Kasa Smart Wifi Plugs**. One is being used for my phone charger on my bedside, and the other is being used on my Xbox. The smart plugs were very easy to set up, as the instructions were very clear, and it took no more than 3 minutes to get one up and running. Along with the smart plugs, there is a free mobile app that must be downloaded to control the smart plugs. Much like the plugs themselves, the app was very simple and easy to use.

I decided to use the Kasa smart plugs because unlike many other smart plugs, they have an energy tracking feature that allows me to monitor and control the energy output. I wanted to ensure that energy wasn't being consumed by my electronics when not in use, so this feature was very useful. I was especially concerned with my Xbox, as I couldn't unplug it every time I wasn't using it due to the inconvenient location of the outlet. This device was perfect for this, as I can remotely turn on and off the smart plug and therefore the Xbox. In addition to remotely turning it off and on, I can set a timer for how long to have it on and even schedule when it should turn on through the app. All of this allows me to control when power is being used, and the app shows me how much energy is being consumed at any given time. This helps to combat vampire energy, which is energy being consumed when a device is turned off but still plugged in. For example, my Xbox used 13.4 Watts when off, which means I would be using .32 kWh of energy if my Xbox was off for a day (which is typically the case). With the app, I can remotely turn off the smart plug so no electricity is being used while the Xbox isn't being used. Overall, the app gave great energy consumption data and was very useful to control when energy flows.

I would recommend this product to my friends and family and will continue to use it, as it has helped me become more aware of the amount of electricity I use to power my devices.



Photo courtesy of Amazon; to see more about the reviewed product, please visit:

<https://amzn.to/2L6mBr9>.

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