Module 7

Automation

Unit 16 How Does New Technology Work as Humans Do?

Glossary

range: a set of different things of the same general type
carbon footprint: the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of a particular individual, organization, or community
feature: a distinctive aspect of something
porch: a structure attached to the entrance of a building
(to) enhance: to improve the quality

How Is a Smart Home Green?

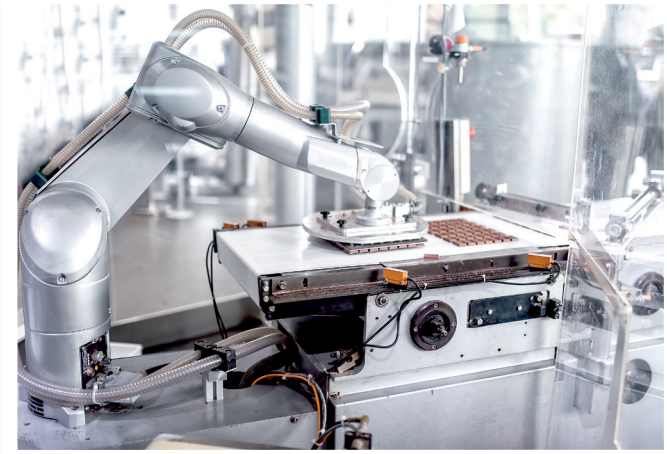
Smart home automation can reduce your home's energy consumption and in doing so make it greener. And you'll be glad to know that there is an ever growing **range** of affordable smart home technologies. A few of the most popular include the following.

Temperature Control

Computerized thermostats give you the power to minimize your **carbon footprint** in several ways. One way is by allowing you to regulate the temperature in your home through your mobile device. If you're on vacation and suddenly remember you forgot to adjust the thermostat you can do so right from your phone. If someone leaves a window open, a smart thermostat can shut off the air conditioning or heat automatically. And you can set a smart thermostat to turn the air conditioning or heat down while you're at work, and turn it back up just prior to your arrival back home. Smart thermostats can also learn your temperature preferences, making it even easier to maximize energy efficiency.

Lighting

Smart home lighting solutions give you greater control over the lighting in your home and in doing so make your home more eco-friendly. **Features** include the ability to adjust the lighting in and outside your home remotely through a web enabled device, or by using a control panel within your home. Instead of leaving **porch** lights on all day, you can program them to turn on just as you are about to arrive home from work or according to sunrise and sunset- saving energy and **enhancing** safety and security. You can program smart home lighting solutions to alert you via text message when a light has been left on. Then, right from your laptop, turn it off minimizing energy waste.



Window Treatments

Take advantage of smart window treatment systems and you'll reduce your home's HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) energy consumption by keeping your home cool during the summer and warming it when winter arrives. For example, to keep your house cool and minimize air conditioning use, you can program window shades or blinds to close during the hottest part of the day. On the other hand, if you're trying to warm a cold house without running the heat, you can set shades to open during a sunny day.

Smart home systems also allow you the opportunity to monitor your home's energy usage and make adjustments to further reduce your environmental impact and save even more money.

(Adapted from "What is a Smart Home and How Does it Support Green Living?", http://www.safewise.com)

Understanding the text

1. Find verbs in the text that are associated with the terms and expressions below.

1. ..... energy consumption
2. ..... the temperature
3. ..... the thermostat
4. ..... greater control
5. ..... safety and security
6. ..... energy usage

2. Fill in the grid with the correct information.

Technology	Function
1.	
2.	
3.	

Writing

3. Write a paragraph of about 90/100 words on the advantages and disadvantages of smart homes. Use the lexicon given.

- A smart home is .....
- The advantages/ disadvantages include .....
- For example, ...
- At the same time .....
- It has to be noted that .....
- To conclude .....