I Dream of Green

Ten years ago, cellphones were simply a device to make calls and maybe send some text messages. Now, cellphones are used in almost every aspect of our lives: from alarm clocks to devices of entertainment, from cameras to computers, and from calendars to devices to pay our bills. As the capabilities of cellphones continue to increase, so does the amount of time that we spend on our cellphones. So why not make an application that controls and educates people in the amount of energy that we consume and also connects the community with local events that create awareness of the environment?

Emerging technology has things such as home lights, television, appliances, security systems, and many other things to be connected to your phone. Although a few people already use this technology in order to control their appliances from other locations, this could be used in order to track down how much energy you've been utilizing and to help you automatically turn off certain devices and stop wasting energy.

In the homepage of this application, you would first have a set up option in which you can register what type of home you have, the number of people in your house, and the number of appliances and electronic devices that you have in your house. This will calculate the amount of energy that an average home of that particular size and style will utilize on average per month.

From there you would be able to connect as many of your appliances/electronic device as as possible. Once that is set up in your home screen you would have a button that leads you to the list of all the devices that are currently connected to your phone. Within each distinctive device, there will be the amount of energy that it has consumed that month so far, an on and off option, and a section when you can schedule when to turn off and on.

Also in your homepage there will be a count of how much energy you have consumed so far in the month, but below that will be an option for my goal. Your goal would be an option so that you can set up how much less energy than the average you want to consume. The more you save, the more points you will obtain. Below the track of how much you've spent, there will also be the tally of how much you've saved so par and the amount of points you have collected.

Now, I've mentioned points, cut how will they work? For every kilowatt-hour that you save, you get one point, and those points can help to receive gift cards from store that are environmentally friendly or conscious such as Whole Foods and Wheatsville in the Austin area as a way to encourage our users to save energy.

Also, within the application, there will be an alert system to warn you when you are really close to going over your goal before the month is over, and also when you are close to going over the average amount of energy that you should spent. This will alert people and will make people conscious of when they are spending too much energy.

Although this application will create conscious of your own energy consumption and help you save, there will also be a section of community. Within that option, there will be lists of events around the area where you live, which create awareness of environmental problems in our planet. There you can also post any even that you might be hosting relating to conserving our planets resources, and also a section where you can post an article of what you have been doing to preserve our planets resources.

Although it seems easy there are a lot of steps in order to make this invention functional. For one, most of the appliances owned by the average Americans do not have the technology to track energy, connect to a phone, or be turned on or off from another device. Therefore a small, easy to use, and inexpensive chip would need to be made in order to attach to older appliances

and electronic devices. Also, there would have to be awareness of the application so that people can start using it, and finally connections with local companies all through out the United States would have to be made in order for the point system to work and encourage our users to keep saving energy.

This application for conserving energy will contribute to saving natural gas, oil, and coal: All very important resources of our planet that are being consumed at a faster rate that cannot be replenished at the same rate. And while still causing awareness of our energy consumption, connecting the community to share ideas and get together in order to create even more awareness.