



Eco-Schools USA at Home: Energy Conservation

HOW-TO ASSESS ENERGY AT HOME

WHY THINK ABOUT MY ENERGY USE?

As global temperatures rise, wildfires, droughts, and high electricity demands put stress on the nation's energy infrastructure. Severe weather is the leading cause of power outages and fuel supply disruption in the United States! Energy generation is also one of the most significant contributors of CO₂ to the atmosphere, so it is essential for you as a citizen to have the knowledge and skills to understand the problems, develop and implement solutions, and advocate for change. By understanding and reducing your current energy use and researching energy-efficient appliances to use at home, you can significantly cut your energy use, conduct exciting STEM investigations, and see real financial savings and reduced environmental impact.

MATERIALS

- Eco-Schools USA at Home Audit and Action Plan
- Home energy bill
- Papercraft materials

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- 1) What does it mean to save energy?
- 2) At home, what are things that use energy?
- 3) What are energy vampires?
- 4) Does energy use have an impact on the environment? On how much money we have?
- 5) Does everyone have access to the energy they need?

STEP BY STEP

- 1) Before the audit, look at your energy provider's website (this is the business listed on your electricity bill to see if they have any energy saving tips or options to participate in energy savings programs.) A parent/guardian should be able to tell you who your energy provider is. Make sure also to let your teacher know you are starting your energy project at home!
- 2) Read through the Eco-Schools USA at Home Energy Audit and Action Plan and decide on dates to do a pre-action audit and a post-action audit. This will help determine the length of your energy project.
- 3) Conduct the pre-action audit and analyze the results using the provided audit and worksheets.
- 4) Make an action plan to conserve energy at home with your family, using the template provided.
- 5) Conduct a post-action audit and share your successes with your teacher, extended family, and or the local community.