



ENERGY USE AT HOME

How do you use energy at home? Think about it. What type of energy do you use the most?
Are you using energy efficiently?

Choose five things in your home that use energy. Create a labelled diagram for each item that includes its name, its job, the energy it uses (input energy), and the energy it produces (output energy). Think of all the types of energy we have talked about: light, heat, sound, motion, electricity, sun, wind, and fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas).

From your five, choose two things to track your families' use of for five days. For example, if you chose a hair dryer, tally how many times you use that hair dryer in those five days. Can you use these things more efficiently? Design a plan that will change the way you use these two things so that you and your family will conserve energy at your house. Your plan should consider the energy input of each thing and clearly explain why you think it will help your family to conserve energy.

You will be presenting your labelled diagram and your energy conservation plan to your classmates so we can all benefit from everybody's great ideas.

Dear Families,

We have been exploring energy for the last few weeks in science. Our focus has been what energy sources we use, how we use them, and what other types of energy is produced. We are now beginning to look at the implications of how we use energy and why we must use it efficiently. To support students' understanding of energy conservation, I am sending home a project that focuses on their energy use at home. The goal of this project is to get them thinking about energy use and their ability to make a difference in our energy consumption.

While students' work on this project at home, we will be looking at what we can do at school to be more energy efficient. Children will be assigned a small group and each group will be assigned a different room in the school to analyse our energy use and determine areas where we could improve our energy consumption.

By looking at both their homes and school, they will be better able to make connections to the community and world around them as they discover that each of us has a role to play in using energy wisely and properly.

As with any home project, I expect that you will guide them but let the work be theirs'. I want this to be an opportunity for them to think, write, and organize. I especially want them to have the opportunity to support their thinking by explaining why they believe something to be effective. They will most definitely need guidance but make sure it is their thinking that makes the final product.

The accompanying pages explain the project and how it will be assessed. Use the assessment piece as your guide. It very clearly states what the expectations of the project are to make it easier to complete the assignment. The assessment piece is divided into levels, a level 1 being the lowest grade, a level 4 being the highest (an A).

As always, let me know if you have any questions or concerns and I will do my best to help you.

Have fun!