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#### **ENERGY ~ Vampires**



It takes energy to power computers, televisions, and other electronics. Can you think of any other devices in your classroom that use energy?

Some devices use energy even when they are turned off. These devices are sometimes called "energy vampires." We may be able to save energy if we unplug these electronics when we are not using them. A quick way to do this is to plug appliances into a power strip that we can turn off, which is like unplugging them.



List the electronic devices you see in the classroom. Next, find out whether each device is left on in "active" mode overnight, put to "sleep," or turned completely "off." Look at the table below and ask your teacher about these modes. If devices are plugged into a power strip, find out if the power strips are turned off at the end of the day.

#### **COMMON OPERATING MODES FOR ELECTRIC DEVICES**

	MODE
"Active"	Device is on and being used. (Example: a DVD player playing a movie.)
"Sleep/Standby" Device is in low-power mode. (Example: DVD player is on but not playing a movie.)	
"Off"	Device is turned off but still plugged in and ready for action. (Example: DVD player is turned off but could be turned on by remote control.)
"Power strip/ Unplugged"	Device is plugged into a power strip, which is turned off at the end of the day. (Example: DVD player is receiving NO power.)

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Dovice	How many		/ devices ar at the end o		
Device	are there?	"Active"	"Sleep/ Standby"	"Off"	"Power strip"
Desktop Computer					
Computer monitor - conventiona l (CRT)					
Computer monitor, flat screen (LCD)					
Laptop computer					
Printer					
DVD/VCR Player					
LCD Projector					
Stereo					
Television					
Smart board					

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## **ELECTRICITY ~ Classroom Lighting**

We use electricity to light our classrooms and homes. We can find ways to use less electricity for lighting if we know what types of lights we use and when we use them. Look at how many light bulbs turn on when you turn on the switch in your classroom. Next, ask the school janitor to help you find the amount of electricity (in watts) each bulb uses. Then talk with your teacher to see how many hours the lights are on each day.

These are some types of lights you may find in the classroom.



Overhead Fluorescent



Fluorescent Tubes



Incandescent Bulb



Switch	How many bulbs turn on per switch?	How much electricity does each bulb use (in watts)?	How many hours is it turned on each day?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

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## **ELECTRICITY & NATURAL GAS ~ Classroom Heating**

It takes a lot of energy to keep schools warm when it is cold outside. If we wear a sweater or keep doors and windows closed when it is cold outside, we may need to use less heat in the classroom and we might save some energy! What other things can you do to keep warm without using heat?





A thermostat lets us change how much heat we use in a room. Find out if there is a thermostat that we can change in the classroom.

Can you see to what temperature is it set?

	CATEGORY	
	1. Is there a thermostat we can change in the classroom or main office?	Yes No
HEATING	2. If so, to what temperature is it set?	Warm Weather Cold Weather
	3. Do you try to keep your classrooms windows or doors shut in the winter?	Yes No
	How is the school heated?	Electricity Fuel oil Natural gas

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#### **TRANSPORTATION ~ Getting to and from school**

We can travel to and from school in many ways. We can walk, ride a bike, drive a car, or take the bus. Most cars and busses use fuel made from oil which pollutes the air. We use our own energy to walk or ride a bike, so walking or riding a bike does not use oil and does not create pollution.



Ask your teacher how he or she gets to and from school. Next, find out how far your teacher travels to and from school each day. If your teacher drives, ask him or her how many miles their car travels per gallon of gas. If they don't know, ask them to look it up at <a href="https://www.fueleconomy.gov">www.fueleconomy.gov</a>.







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Category		
How does your teacher get to and from school? (Circle all that apply)	Drive alone Carpool Bus Walk Bike	
How far does your teacher travel to and from school each day?	miles	
How many days a week does your teacher use each type of transportation?	Drive alone Carpool Walk, bike or bus	
If your teacher drives or carpools, how far can they drive on one gallon of fuel?	miles per gallon (mpg)	
If your teacher carpools, how many people total ride in the car?	people	







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#### **SOLID WASTE ~ garbage and recycling**

Each day we throw lots of things away. We can reduce waste by recycling more and buying less stuff, or buying things that will last. We can use both sides of a piece of paper and use reusable containers to pack our lunches to reduce waste. Can you think of other ways to reduce waste?



Do you know how much garbage your class throws away each week? Let's find out! Count how many full bins of garbage your class throws away



each week. Weigh a full bin of garbage and record the weight. Next, ask your teacher what materials your class recycles. Then, find out about the paper your class uses and about the beverage containers your teacher uses.

Category	
How many full bins of garbage does the classroom fill each week?	full bins
How much does a full bin of garbage weigh? (Weigh a full bin and subtract the weight of the bin when it is empty.)	pounds

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Category			
Does the classroom recycle? (Circle one.)	Yes	No	
What is recycled in the classroom? (Circle all that apply.)	Paper Aluminum	Plastic Cans Glass	
How much paper does your classroom use per week (in reams)?	reams of paper		
How much of the paper is made from recycled material?	percent		
Are both sides of the paper used?	Yes	No	
If the teacher drinks bottled water/soda, how many plastic water bottles does he or she use each week?	bottles		
Does the teacher recycle the empty water bottles or throw them away most of the time?	Recycle	Throw away	
If the teacher drinks other beverages, does he or she use a reusable mug or disposable cups?	Reusable mug	Disposable cups	
How many disposable cups does he or she use in a week?	cups		