

the green energy uk guide to saving energy in school: appliances



Did you know that the average television set left on can use up to 75% the amount of electricity it would have used if actually being watched? That's a lot of waste. Right across the school are dozens of appliances that could be being left on unnecessarily, wasting energy and costing the school money. As part of the 'Turn Off Squad', the teams will help to reduce this waste.

the task

Assign different parts of the school to different teams. Some teams will look for appliances in classrooms, another for offices, and others for corridors, toilets, the assembly hall, canteen and library. Firstly, the teams should take a meter reading to see how much electricity school is currently using. Then they should read the information below and see where changes can be made. A week after the school has made the changes, the teams should take another meter reading to see how much electricity has been saved.



Any **televisions, DVDs and video players** left on stand-by should be turned off at the plug too. To help people remember to do this, you could run an art project to design and create posters or stickers that can be placed where people can see them and be instantly reminded to switch off at the plug. If you know a **computer monitor** isn't going to be needed, switch it off. Some screensavers use as much energy as the computer does when it's in full use. If you are away from the computer a short period but do not have time to shut down your PC and boot it back up, adjust your computer settings to 'sleep' or power saving mode, which makes it use less energy. Do **printers and scanners** need to be switched on all the time? If not, turn them off at the plug. As above, posters and stickers can be a great reminder. **Photocopiers** can be extremely wasteful. A photocopier left on and inactive for four hours wastes enough energy to have done **2,500 copies!** If possible, turn photocopiers off and organise a period in the day when one is switched on for everyone to do their photocopying (remember that a photocopier takes time to warm up, about ten minutes). When boiling a **kettle** for tea and coffee in the staff room, only boil the amount of water that is needed. Boiling two litres of water for one cup uses ten times more electricity than needed. If the school does not have them, consider recommending an eco boiler – these use less energy. The most energy efficient way to use a **washing machine** and **dishwasher** is to always fully load them. They still boil and run the same amount of water as they would with a smaller load. You could halve your energy use if you did this. Have any **mobile phones** been left on to charge too long? This wastes a lot of electricity. Speak to the owner about switching it off at the plug. The school could consider **intelligent multi-plug adaptors** where the computer is plugged into the main socket and the printer and scanner into the other sockets. When the computer is switched off, the printer and scanner automatically are too. One adaptor can save up to £46 worth of electricity per year.





recording sheet: **appliances**

Team member:

Class:

School:

Which part/s of school we looked at:

what we found out

room/area

appliances in use, and what we suggest

the differences we notice (a week after the changes are made)