

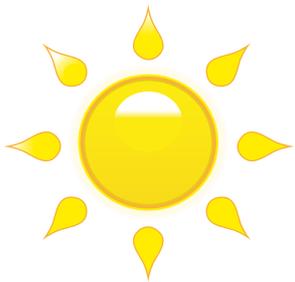
# the green energy uk guide to saving energy in school: lighting



Nearly 20% of the money schools spend on energy is for electricity to power lights. Of course, we need light to work, to help us see what we're doing and to stop us bumping into things, but there are ways to use less electric lighting and make the most of free sunlight. This project shows you how...

## the project

Start by assigning different areas of the school to teams. One team should be responsible for classrooms, another for offices, another for corridors and toilets, and another for the assembly hall, canteen and library. By the end of the project, you should find that you are using up to 10% less electric energy to light the school.



## learn about critical light mass

Critical light mass is the amount of light each of us needs to be able to see clearly and work effectively in our schools, classrooms and at home. The purpose each team discovering critical light mass in their area is to see if it can be achieved by using natural light alone, or by using the minimum amount of electric lighting necessary.

## how you can make the best of natural light

When looking at each area, the teams should identify:

- where anything blocking natural light can be easily removed
- if lights be switched off during the day (remember, though, that we all need a fair amount of light to see clearly, so only turn lights off if you definitely don't need them)
- where skylights, windows and doors can be cleaned to let more light in.
- if curtains are pulled back as far as they go, or if those that do not pull back far can be repaired.
- if windowsills and blinds can be cleaned to improve light reflection, noting down blinds that do not open fully.
- where sensor or timer switches can be used if lights do not need to be kept on all the time.
- if dimmer switches can be used in rooms where lighting is too high.

The teams should record their findings on the following sheet and then make some recommendations about two or three things that can be done to improve light. Once you have carried out whatever changes you can, the teams can note the difference made.



## recording sheet: lighting

**Team member:**

**Class:**

**School:**

**Which part/s of school we looked at:**

### what we found out

**room/area**

**our observation**

### our recommendations (choose up to three which you think can be easily achieved)

1.

2.

3.

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