

# SAVING MONEY AND THE PLANET

**Q: What small changes can we make to save money and help protect the planet?**

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To understand how we can use less energy

To understand that saving energy will also save our families money

To understand that we can all make a difference by making small changes in our everyday lives

## FINANCIAL EDUCATION PLANNING FRAMEWORK LINKS

I can make simple choices about saving some of my money (3-5 years)

I know I have choices about saving and spending my money (5-7 years)

## INTRODUCTION

Introduce the activity by asking children what they think 'energy' is? As a class, think of some ways that we might use energy in our everyday lives. Encourage the children to think about the different types of energy they have used since waking up. Examples might include driving to school, watching the television, switching on the bedroom lights etc.

## MAIN ACTIVITY

By using too much energy, we can harm the people and animals who live on our planet. By using less energy, we can help protect them now and in the future. Tell the children that they are going to watch a video about how we can all use less energy: *How to save energy* video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycdke8MTSCI>

Challenge the children to spot **3** ways that we can use less energy in the home. Then ask the children how we can use less water in our home? You may wish to show the video again.

Using less energy and water can help save the planet but it can also help our families. How do you think this can help our families? Hint: Did you spot the answer at the end of the video?

**By using less energy and water we can save money. If we use less energy and water in our homes, our family's bills will be lower.**

Tell the children that we can all make a difference. We can save money and help protect the planet. Just a small action like reminding others to save energy or water can have a big impact.

Ask the class what they could do that might help. Examples could include:

- telling your brother or sister to switch off the water when they're brushing their teeth
- remind your family to switch off the TV once they've finished watching it
- remind everyone to close windows in the school when it's cold
- remind your teacher to switch off the classroom light at break time and at the end of school

## PLENARY

Below are **three** challenge entry options, choose the challenge entry option that you think will best appeal to your children.

### CHALLENGE ENTRY OPTION 1: SIGN

Choose a room in your house e.g. the kitchen, living room or bathroom, and create a sign to remind your family to save money and the planet. Your sign could include a slogan and/or picture. Remember, it needs to stand out and be clear so that every time your family sees it they remember to do that thing e.g. in the living room – closing the windows when it's cold to save money on heating bills. Children can also choose to create a sign for their school or organisation reminding other children and/or their teachers to use less energy.

Once the children have created their sign they should complete the *Challenge Summary Sheet*, telling us about their sign and how they think it will help their family and the planet. Lower ability children can dictate their answers to a teacher.

### CHALLENGE ENTRY OPTION 2: SUPERHERO

Task the children with creating a superhero. Their superhero must help to save the planet and save money.

Encourage them to think about:

- The superhero's name – all superheroes have a special, memorable name
- The powers they have – all superheroes have a superpower, but their superpower must help people to both save money and save the planet
- The costume they will wear – all superheroes have a special costume.
- Where does he/she come from and does he/she have a pet?

Children should draw a picture of their superhero in action – what are they doing to help people save money and save the planet? The picture should include the name of the superhero.

Once the children have created their superhero, ask them to complete the *Challenge Summary Sheet*, explaining who their superhero is and how they save money and save the planet. Lower ability children can dictate their answers to a teacher.

### CHALLENGE ENTRY OPTION 3: 'SAVE THE PLANET' POSTER

This challenge is particularly suitable for lower ability children. We have provided a Save the Planet poster template, children can use this or create their own.

Show the children the template of a person holding a circle, explain that the circle is the earth and that they are going to draw a picture in the circle of something we can do to save money and help the planet. Encourage children to use bright colours to make their idea stand out.

Once the children have created their poster, ask them to complete the *Challenge Summary Sheet*, telling us how they can save money and save the planet. Lower ability children can dictate their answers to a teacher.