

ENERGY

Q: WHAT ENERGY CHOICES CAN WE MAKE TO HELP OUR SCHOOL AND THE ENVIRONMENT?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To identify the different ways in which we use energy around the school.

To understand the best ways to collect and record data on energy use.

To identify different ways to reduce energy use at school.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION PLANNING FRAMEWORK LINKS

I know how to prioritise between needs and wants (7-9 years)

I understand why making informed decisions will help me make the most of the money I have (9-11 years)

ACTIVITY

Begin the activity by asking children what they think the link is between energy use and saving money. Pick up on any answers that link energy use to paying bills and the idea that using less energy means we can pay less on our bills. Then share the following research about how schools can save money by reducing their energy use:

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Making good use of daylight in a classroom can reduce lighting costs by 19%.**
- **A single computer and monitor left on 24 hours a day will cost around £45 a year. Switching them off out of hours and enabling standby features could reduce this to less than £10 a year and prolong the lifespan of equipment. You could save enough energy to make 30 teachers six cups of coffee every day!**
- **Switching a school's vending machine off at night and at the weekends reduces energy costs by more than 70%.**

Describe a typical lesson to the children, they should write down (or stop the description) every time they identify an energy use, e.g. when they begin the lesson the lights are on and the smartboard is on.

On the board, make a list of the energy usage identified during the description of the lesson. For each of the items listed on the board discuss whether they are necessary, (a 'need') or just nice to have (a 'want'). Explain that much of the energy is necessary, e.g. without lights it would be difficult for the pupils to work.

Now ask the pupils to think about what happens when they leave the classroom, e.g. when they go out at playtime or lunchtime. When they are not in the classroom, which of the items on the list are no longer needed? If we leave them on, we are wasting energy and money.

CHALLENGE PORTFOLIO ENTRY OPTION

Task the children with researching how energy is used in the school and the ways that they can reduce energy output to save money and protect the environment. Children can use tally sheets or create questionnaires. They could also carry out online research. Once the children have discovered how energy output can be reduced, they should create a campaign material, e.g. a leaflet or poster or an article, to distribute around the school to raise awareness among the staff and pupils. Once they've created their campaign material, remind them to complete their *Challenge Summary Sheet* too.