


Lesson 4: Conserving energy in school

Student worksheet – Part 1

How much energy does your school currently conserve?

	Question	Yes	No	Comment(s)
1	Do you know how much energy your school uses? How is this energy measured?			What are the measurement units used?
2	Does your school currently have a plan in place to reduce energy consumption?			A plan must be made before reduction can begin.
3	Are the computer screens in the classroom off when they are not in use?			Computer screens use energy even when they are “sleeping”.
4	Are the computers in your classroom / school energy efficient?			Look for the Energy Star icon. 
5	If there are curtains in your classroom, are they being used to help insulate the class to keep warm air in and cold air out?			Curtains act like a blanket so they can help to conserve energy.
6	Are the lights in our classroom on only when they are needed?			Turning lights off is an easy way to reduce your energy use!
7	Do the taps in your school leak?			Leaky water is wasted water and energy.

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Student worksheet – Part 1 (continued)

How much energy does your school currently conserve?

	Question	Yes	No	Comment(s)
8	Do you and your classmates reduce, reuse, and recycle?			Save energy by reusing items and buying fewer new things.
9	Are there trees around your school?			Trees can provide shade to help lower cooling costs.
10	Does your school have a food program? If your school has a food program, do you know if the food is locally grown?			Food that travels from a long distance requires more energy (such as gas) for the trucks that deliver it.
11	Can you see any gaps between the doors or windows and their frames?			A lot of heat/cold escapes through these gaps.



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Student worksheet – Part 2

How can we conserve more energy at school?

1. List any energy saving tips from the survey that surprised you.

2. Describe what your school currently does best to conserve energy.

3. Which energy saving tip do you think your school should start doing right away? Why?

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Student worksheet – Part 2 (continued)

4. On a scale of 1 -10 (1 being not interested and 10 being very interested), how interested are you in helping your school to reduce the amount of energy it uses? Check the box that corresponds to your answer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

5. If you are interested in helping to reduce energy at school, which three things do you want to do first?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



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Teacher instructions

Introducing the activity

- A good starting place to reduce energy use is in the school. This worksheet provides an easy-to-use survey that will give students a sense of how well their school is doing to conserve energy. This survey overlaps with the EcoSchools Energy Conservation EcoReview. Having your students complete this short survey will prepare them for doing the more comprehensive EcoReview (*for more information, see www.ontarioecoschools.org; for schools in the Toronto District School Board, go to www.ecoschools.ca.)*
- Ask students if they are aware of how the school uses energy and record their responses on a piece of chart paper. Have them look for the obvious things first, such as items that need to be plugged in to work.
- Coach students to understand that many other things are less obvious since the energy they use is hidden. For example:
 - Water supply. How does the water get to the school?
 - Garbage. Does it take energy to transport, compost, recycle or bury the garbage?
 - Food. What is needed to produce and deliver food to the school?
 - Paper. How do they turn trees into paper and get it into your notebook?

Ideas for teaching the worksheet

- Distribute the student worksheet - Part 1 and instruct them to indicate either “yes” or “no” to each question on the energy use survey. Have students work in small groups to go through the survey or else review it with your whole class, according to your students’ abilities.
- Once students have completed the survey, review the answers and encourage questions and discussion to prepare them for the 2nd part of the worksheet.
- Read through the questions on the student worksheet – Part 2 on how to conserve more energy in school. Record the answers and indicate that students may recopy them onto their worksheet.
- In questions four and five, students can indicate their level of commitment to implementing their own actions. Over the next few weeks, encourage students to focus on the three conservation tips they listed. Explain that energy-saving behaviours need to be rehearsed often so that they become second nature. Ask them how they plan to remember their commitments. Encourage them to write it on the 20/20 sticker and/or sign the 20/20 Poster as a reminder of their commitment to clean air. Monitor how long it takes for them to adopt energy-conscious behaviours in school.