

BMP #2

Why Should My School Conserve Energy?

Our Fuels are Non-renewable

Most of our energy comes from fossil fuels, like oil and coal. Once you have used one of these fuels its gone, also known as it is non renewable. If we don't conserve energy we will run out of fuel sources.



Pollution

Using fossil fuels causes pollutions. Burning fossil fuels to generate energy puts pollutants and particulates in the air. Mining fossil fuel also creates pollutants on the air and in the water.

Carbon Emissions

The burning of fossils fuels to produce energy releases Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) into the environment. The high levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere is creating Global Climate Change. Which is leading to extreme weather and melting of the ice caps.



Financial Savings

If you use less energy you are spending less money on electricity. If you can save the school system money they may pass the savings on to you.

Competition!

Some Maryland County School Systems have school wide competitions for energy conservation. If your school saves the most money/conserves the most energy you may win your school a bonus. There are some other national organizations who are having energy saving competitions.



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How Can My School Conserve Energy?



- Turn off computer equipment
- Students should turn off monitors that will not be used for the next class period.
- Use natural light to light classroom if possible.
- Turn the heat down after school and on week-ends.
- De-lamp the hallway, if you cant turn off half of the lights in the hallway remove half of the bulbs.
- Turn off half of lights in cafeteria.
- Make energy savings posters to put up throughout your school. Put these posters by light switches, computers, and TV's.
- Conduct an energy audit.
- Give desk lamps for teachers.
- Stop Air Leaks. Encourage students to be innovative. Have students determine areas of energy loss by using "draftmeters" made from plastic wrap and pencils to study where drafts are coming in. Have students help replace insulation and stuff energy loss "holes" by making translucent window quilts to hang in classrooms and "insulation snakes" to put at the bottom of doors and windows. Work with facility staff to install permanent weather stripping, caulking, and insulation.
- Support lighting retrofits. Encourage your school administrators to retrofit lighting to save energy. Have students calculate the energy savings achieved by replacing lighting.
- Use Surge Protectors. Ask teachers and school district staff to plug all equipment into surge protectors and turn them off when not in use.
- Plant trees that could shade the rooms on the sunniest side of the building.
- Are they lined with weather stripping or caulk windows and doorways.
- Turn off computers and lights when you leave school.
- Start a student energy patrol.
- Ask your principal to add an "energy monitor" to school vending machines.



Steps You Can Take At Home

Plug your home computer and TVs into surge protectors and then turn them off at night.

For more information: http://www.maeoe.org/resources/ee_resources.php

