



Energy Walkabout

Our Planet
Our Future

Did you know that Canadian schools consume as much energy in one year as 990 000 households¹? That's a lot of energy!

Find out how your school can conserve energy by going on an energy walkabout. Divide your students into groups of four or five and assign each group a different room. In each area (classroom, library, food services, etc.) have the students go through the different items that use energy and record if each item is energy efficient with either "yes" or "no". Make sure to assign an adult and get permission to go into the food service and office areas.

When students have completed their assigned areas, go through the list as a class. For every time they answered "no", have students come up with an action plan to be more energy efficient.

It's important to get your principal, teachers, and custodial staff onboard so you can work together to have a more energy efficient school.

Classrooms

Lighting

- _____ Compact fluorescent bulbs or fluorescent lamps are used instead of incandescent lighting
- _____ Presence of natural lighting (windows)
- _____ Adjustable blinds/drapery on windows
- _____ Dimmers or timers set to reduce lighting energy
- _____ Lights turned off when no one is in the room

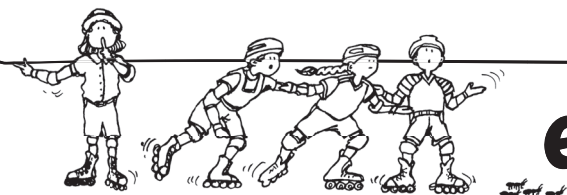
Heating

- _____ Room temperature is set between 18 and 20 degrees Celsius
- _____ Windows are caulked/sealed
- _____ No drafts coming from closed windows (test with a draft meter)

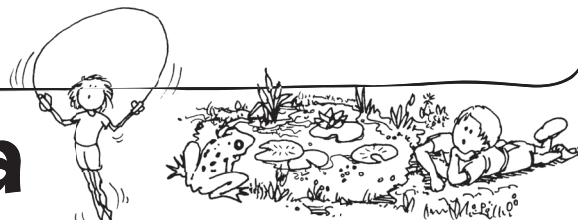
Classroom Electronics/Media

- _____ Computers are off or in standby mode
- _____ Computer monitors are off or running a screen saver
- _____ Electronics (TV, DVD player, VCR, etc.) are off or in standby mode

¹ <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/Publications/statistics/cices06/chapter1.cfm?attr=0>



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Kitchen/Food Services Area

- _____ Energy efficient appliances (fridge, stove, dishwasher)
- _____ Cooking and heating units turned off when not in use
- _____ Dishwashers run only full loads
- _____ No leaking faucets
- _____ Recycling available
- _____ Composting available

Library/Computer Lab/Office

- _____ Computers are on standby mode or turned off if not being used
- _____ Other electronics (TV, DVD player, printers, fax machines) are off or in standby mode
- _____ Recycling available

Outside Environment

- _____ Trees planted around the building to provide shade and wind cover
- _____ Garden/naturalized area on school grounds

How to make a draft meter

Materials

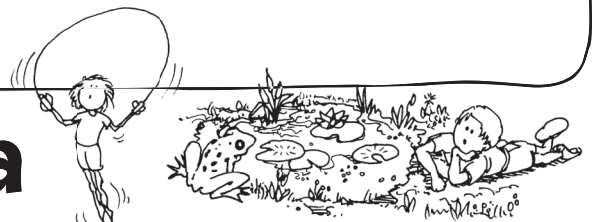
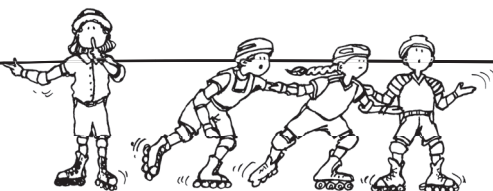
- A few pieces of toilet paper
- Long pencil
- Tape

Tape a strip of toilet paper to the pencil and hold it near a window or door. If there is air leaking through, the toilet paper will move.

Energy saving tips and facts:

- Florescent lighting is more energy efficient than incandescent lighting.
- Planting deciduous trees on the south side of a building blocks the sun in warmer months and allows sun to shine in, in colder months.
- Planting conifers on the north side of a building provides a wind block against northern winds.
- Many appliances and electronics use some energy even while in standby mode. They should always be turned off when not in use for longer periods of time.
- For every aluminum can that is recycled, enough energy is saved to run a TV for three hours.
- Laptop computers consume 90% less energy than desktop computers.
- A leaky hot water tap can waste about 800 litres of water per month.

For more energy saving tips and activity ideas check out ecokids.ca!





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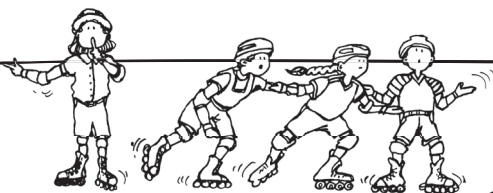
Check out these other great resources!

Conducting School Energy Audits:

- Earth Day Network
<http://www.earthday.net/ccscsite/SchoolEnergyAuditEditedFinal.pdf>
- Earth Care Canada
http://www.earthcarecanada.com/EarthCare_Program/Lessons/Energy_Audit.pdf
- Thirteen Ed Online
http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/wue/energy2_procedures.html
- The NEED project
<http://www.need.org/needpdf/EnergySurveyStudent.pdf>

Energy use in Schools:

- BC Hydro
http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/technology_tips/managing_energy_costs/schools.html



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