

Climate Chaos

Day 4 Morning session: What we can do; Planning for action – energy use at school

Activity 1: How energy efficient is our school?

Time required: 30 minutes

You will need

- A copy of the **School energy survey** for each group of about four pupils (below)
- Access to the schoolkeeper (ideally) – either to visit the class to answer questions at some point during the morning, or for a group to go and interview him/her

Aim

To increase understanding of how less fossil fuel energy could be used at school.

What to do

Remind the class of yesterday's activities about how much fossil fuel energy we use in our everyday lives and how that contributes to climate change. Tell them that this morning's focus is to find out if the school is wasting energy and to come up with an action plan about how the school could use less energy.

Ask them to form groups of about four pupils and give each group a school energy survey to complete. They could either all complete it for the classroom they are in, or different groups could be allocated different parts of the school to investigate.

Read through the survey together and make sure they understand all the questions. Tell them that some of the answers they will know, some they will need to move around the classroom (or school) to find out, and some they may need to ask an adult (ideally the schoolkeeper) about. They should complete the ones they can answer from their own experience or investigations. Note that as it is summer, heating will be off and there are likely to be fewer drafts than in winter, so they may need to use their memories!

Bring the groups back together to compare findings.

Invite the schoolkeeper into the classroom to answer the remaining questions, or send a group to interview him/ her and feedback to the rest of the class. Ask pupils to keep their completed surveys, as they will need them for Activity 3.

Climate Chaos

Worksheet: School energy survey

Choose one area of your school building. Use this checklist to look for places where energy is being wasted.

Lights

Are lights on unnecessarily?

Is someone in charge of turning off lights in the room when everyone leaves (e.g. at breaktimes)? Are all the lights turned off in empty rooms?

Can you switch the lights on in one area only (e.g. the area furthest away from the windows)?

Are there any energy-efficient lightbulbs / compact fluorescent lightbulbs in your building?

Computers and other electrical equipment (e.g. photocopiers)

Are all unused computers (including monitors) and other electrical equipment turned off?

Are all computers and other electrical equipment turned off at the end of the day?

Is someone responsible for checking?

Windows and doors

Are there drafts around the edges of windows or doors?

Are there draft strips around the edges of windows or doors?

Are the windows double-glazed?

Are windows or doors left open in winter?

Heating

Can you turn heating up or down in this room only?

Are the corridors kept as warm as the classrooms? (Heating can be lower in corridors, as people are moving around.)

Is the heating timed to turn off half an hour before the school closes?

Recycling

Does your school recycle paper? (Recycled paper uses between 28 and 70 per cent of the energy of non-recycled, depending on the kind of paper and how far the paper travels during the recycling process.)

Is recycled paper used in your school?