

Energy Walkabout

Grades: 9-12

Topic: Energy Efficiency and Conservation

Owner: National Energy Foundation

This educational material is brought to you by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Objective

The student will be able to audit a building for energy efficiency.

Curriculum Focus

Science, Consumer science

Materials

Energy Audit Checklists

Cameras (optional but very valuable)

Energy Walkabout

INTRODUCTION

In this activity, students will apply the energy conservation measures they have learned about with the *Energy Action Challenge* to perform an energy audit of the school building. Photos of energy behaviors—good, bad, and ugly—and survey results can be used in educational posters and presentations to students and faculty on why we need to work on energy conservation and how easy it can be to save energy by simply keeping doors and windows closed, shutting things off when they are not in use, etc.

Procedure

1. Have students create a list of behaviors they could find around the school that would be energy-wise choices.
2. Have students either create their own checklists, or provide copies of the Energy Audit Checklist included with the activity. Explain that students are to collect data on where energy-wise choices are being used, and where the school could improve efficiency. If possible, have students document their findings, both good and bad, using cameras.
3. Divide students into groups that can either focus on one area of the school or one or two specific conservation measures, such as door weather stripping and the use of fluorescent lighting for one group, lights off in unoccupied spaces, and computer monitors off or in standby mode when not in use for another group.
4. Give students a certain amount of time to collect data and then return to the classroom and discuss the results of their surveys. As a class, produce a list of recommendations for saving energy at your school. Have students suggest ways that these recommendations could be shared with the school, stressing that all communications should be positive, not accusatory.
5. Your students are now *Energy Action Patrol* agents. Allow students to implement positive suggestions.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1. Have students write a persuasive essay on the need for energy conservation. Perhaps open this assignment up to the entire school for a contest, or ask writing teachers to assign the topic in their class, as well.

2. Have students compile their data and present the results of their surveys and their recommendations to school officials, in faculty or school advisory committee meetings, etc.
3. Have students place conservation posters around the school and create newspaper ads and public service announcements with energy saving tips. These could be placed periodically in the school newspaper, announcements that go home to parents, and on the school's daily announcements.