

# Energy

## Sustainability Audit

This guide will help you actively observe your surroundings by zooming in on Energy at your school grounds. Go out, explore, investigate and start your Eco-School actions!



# EXPLORE ENERGY WITH ECO-SCHOOLS

Energy consumption and carbon emissions are key factors driving climate change. We depend on energy for daily activities at school and home, with two primary sources: non-renewable and renewable energy. Non-renewable energy, like coal and oil, contributes to harmful carbon emissions, while renewable energy - such as solar, wind, and hydro - offers a cleaner alternative.



Your Eco-Committee can choose to focus on the theme Energy, or explore several themes at once. Forming sub-groups within the committee ensures continuity, with each group taking responsibility for a specific theme and developing expertise over time. Use the Eco-Schools Seven Steps to explore and weave the theme throughout every part of your school.

## SOME QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED...

### Understanding Energy Use

- What do we use energy for in our school?
- Where does the energy used in our school come from, and how does its origin affect the environment?

### Energy Conservation

- What measures are in place to conserve energy in our school (what are we doing well)?
- What further steps can we take to conserve energy in our school, and how can these actions reduce our environmental impact?

### Renewable energy

- Do we currently use any forms of renewable energy in our school?
- Is there any potential to introduce renewable energy to power any of our school buildings/activities?



Challenge assumptions, slow down, and really observe your surroundings. Your school has its own unique challenges and solutions that only sharp, curious minds will discover. Record what you see - notes, sketches, photos, or simple counts - at different times and seasons.

Ask critical questions: *What's here? What's missing? Why is it like this? What could change?* Use these insights to understand the current situation and move towards high-impact actions for Energy at your school.



## Energy Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
<b>Energy</b>		
Carry out a mini energy audit. How many things are using electricity in your school right now?		
Find out who monitors the usage - What has been your school's electricity consumption over the past 12 months (in kWh)?		
How much money has your school spent on energy over the past 12 months? Find the yearly energy consumption by adding the monthly energy bill.		
What are examples of non-renewable energy used in your area?		
Can you find examples of renewable energy?		
<b>Light</b>		
Are lights usually on or off when a room is empty?		
Which areas of the school use the most lights, screens, or devices?		
Do classrooms make good use of natural light?		
<b>Systems &amp; Devices</b>		
Are heating/cooling systems on while the window is open?		
Are electronic devices on while they are not being used?		
How old are the lighting and energy appliances?		



## Energy Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit

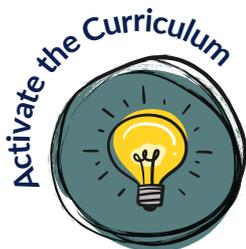
Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>		
Which energy-saving systems does your school have in place? <input type="checkbox"/> Energy-efficient LED lighting <input type="checkbox"/> Solar panels <input type="checkbox"/> Motion-sensing lights <input type="checkbox"/> Energy-efficient bulbs <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical timers <input type="checkbox"/> Smart meters		
What is used to insulate windows, roofs and doors?		
Which forms of energy do you rely on at your school? <input type="checkbox"/> Electricity <input type="checkbox"/> Oil <input type="checkbox"/> Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Biomass <input type="checkbox"/> Solar <input type="checkbox"/> Wind <input type="checkbox"/> Geothermal <input type="checkbox"/> Air source heat <input type="checkbox"/> Other (fossil fuels) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (renewable)		
Are there any solar panels, wind turbines, or other renewable systems on school buildings?		
Are there electric vehicle charging points?		
<b>Behaviours</b>		
Which activities in your daily routine use the most energy (for example, lighting, heating, cooking, transport)?		
What times of day do you think energy use is the highest?		
Are there any notices or reminders about saving energy (for example, "Switch off lights" or "Close the door")?		



# Energy Eco-Schools Sustainability Audit

Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Your questions		

# Choosing *Energy* as a key theme for action? Follow these next Eco-Schools steps...



What knowledge or skills do you still need to start putting your ideas into action? Take some time to identify what's missing and discuss it within your Eco-Committee. Then, reach out to your teachers and tell them what you'd like to learn more about, whether it's energy sources, solar panels, or practical ways to save electricity and gas in your school. Together, you can build the knowledge and confidence needed to start real change!

---



Use what you've learned from your lessons, your Eco-Schools activities, and your own observations, to take action! Work together to turn your ideas into real change by creating an Action Plan for Energy. Mobilise your Eco-Committee, teachers, school staff, parents, and the wider community to help you reach your goals. You could:



introduce energy saving devices



introduce reusable energy sources



save on electricity use



save on gas usage

Whatever actions you choose, make sure they are realistic, measurable, and long-lasting, so your Eco-Committee's work continues to grow year after year.

---



Monitor your actions to see the difference you have made! Use your Action Plan to check what's changed in your school and community. Have you reduced your electricity use? Are more people aware of responsible energy consumption? You could compare before-and-after energy usage indicators, count energy saving devices, or note how many people joined your activities. Measuring your impact helps you celebrate success and plan even better actions for the future!

---



Make sure the whole school and local community are part of your Energy journey. Share your findings and actions through assemblies, newsletters, posters, or social media. Invite teachers, students, parents, and local experts to join activities or share their knowledge. By including different perspectives and experiences, your Eco-Committee will build stronger, more creative solutions that last.