



Questionnaires and Surveys

Questionnaires and surveys are great ways of gathering information about people's habits, knowledge, opinions and preferences. A questionnaire is a great tool to use as part of your Environmental Review. You can also redo the questionnaire throughout your work on the Green-Schools programme as a method of Monitoring and Evaluation (Step 4).

Here are some tips to creating a great questionnaire!

1. Determine what it is you want to find out. For example, are you interested in people's attitudes to energy, levels of energy consumption in the school or at home, ways to save energy etc.
2. Decide who you are going to distribute the questionnaire to. For example, pupils and students, teachers, parents, local businesses, the local community, etc.
3. Create an introduction for your questionnaire that outlines why you are conducting the questionnaire and instructions on how to complete it.
4. Decide how you are going to distribute and collect the questionnaire, for example by post, email, sent home with students, etc.
5. Collate the results of the questionnaire and create graphs and pictures to show the results. Display the results on your notice board so the whole school body can see.

Top Tip! If you have any blank space left on your questionnaire why not include some tips on energy conservation as a way of Informing and Involving!

Seven Steps Links:

Step 2: Environmental Review	Questionnaires and surveys are great ways of assessing the initial situation in the school as regards energy.
Step 3: Action Plan	The results of the questionnaire will allow you to identify what kind of actions you will need to reduce energy consumption
Step 4: Monitoring and Evaluation	By redoing the questionnaire at a later point of your Green-Schools programme you will be able to recognise how successful the programme has been.
Step 5: Curriculum Work	Maths, Art and IT classes may be able to create graphs and diagrams that show the results of the questionnaire.
Step 6: Informing and Involving	Questionnaires are great way of informing and involving the school body and wider community and increasing awareness of energy issues.



Sample Questionnaire

We are students from _____ and we are conducting a questionnaire to find out about energy consumption in our homes as part of our work on the Green-Schools programme. If you could take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire we would be very grateful. Thank you for your time.

1. Which of these is a renewable source of energy?

- A. Coal
- B. Geothermal
- C. Oil
- D. Natural Gas

2. How long do you shower for?

- A. Less than 3 minutes
- B. Less than 5 minutes
- C. Less than 10 minutes
- D. More than 10 minutes

3. Do you have any of these energy efficiency measures installed in your home?

- A. Insulation – loft, cavity walls, floors, etc.
- B. Draught-proofing of the windows and doors
- C. Use of low voltage lamps
- D. Insulation of the hot water cylinder

Other: _____

4. Do you turn off lights when you leave a room?

- A. Yes
- B. No

5. Do you put on the washing machine when it's not full?

- A. Yes
- B. No

6. Do you put on the dishwasher when it is not full?

- A. Yes
- B. No

7. Do you fill the kettle when you only want one cup of tea?

- A. Yes
- B. No



8. Can you name 2 ways you can save energy that would cost nothing?

- A. _____
B. _____

9. Have you ever heard of the Kyoto Protocol?

- A. Yes
B. No

10. What do you think would be a good incentive to people to be more active in saving energy?

Tips for Energy Conservation

- **Turn off appliances** when they are not in use. Do not leave them on standby. Standby can use up to 20% on some inefficient appliances.
- Buy **A rated appliances** for your Home. This can be a huge saving of €150 annually on your electricity bill.
- **Turn down your heating** – by even 1 degree Celsius and it will save you up to €150 per year of your money. A 10% percent saving.
- Buy **energy efficient light bulbs (CFLs)** instead of traditional bulbs – they use 1/5th energy and last up to 10 times as long. They will pay for themselves in under a year and from then on they are saving you on your electricity bill
- **Attic Insulate** – insulating your attic will keep the heat in your home for longer and pay for itself in 2-3 years.
- **Fit a lagging jacket** – lagging your hot water tank will keep the water hotter for longer and will have paid for itself in a few months.
- **Don't overfill your kettle** – boil only as much water as you need.
- **Walk or cycle** to work instead of driving - it costs nothing and it's healthy for you.
- **Use the clothesline when possible** – Tumble dryers use a lot of energy.
- **Buy Local Produce** – A considerable amount of energy is consumed transporting produce around the globe, reduce this by sourcing food from a local farmers market and also help the local economy.

Tips adapted from <http://www.savingenergy.ie/go-green/energy-saving-tips>