

Lesson Plan: "We have the Power"



Class Level: Senior Primary (5th / 6th Class)

Time: 40–50 minutes (can be done over two shorter sessions)

Curriculum Links:

- SESE – Science & Geography
- SPHE – Human Rights, Citizenship, and Global Development
- Literacy (cross-curricular): Storytelling, personal narratives

Strands & Strand Units:

Science:

- Energy and Forces: Energy use in the home and environment

Geography:

- Human Environments
- Environmental Awareness and Care

SPHE:

- Myself and the Wider World: Global Citizenship and Equality



Differentiation:

Support:

Visuals, sentence starters, comic strip templates
Oral storytelling for students with writing challenges

Extension:

Research and report on a real-world energy justice project (e.g. SolarAid, Little Sun)

Assessment:

Observation of participation and engagement

Completion and quality of storytelling activity

Use of key vocabulary: renewable, rights, development, energy inequality

Responses during discussion and reflection

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify different sources of energy used in Ireland.
2. Explain how energy access varies globally and describe energy inequality.
3. Understand the connection between energy access and human rights (education, health, safety).
4. Reflect on life without electricity through a creative storytelling activity.
5. Recognise energy as a global issue and consider sustainable and fair energy solutions.

Materials Needed

- World map / globe
- Images/slides of global energy access (rural vs urban, solar panels, blackouts, etc.)
- Optional 1–2 minute video clip on global energy inequality (e.g. SolarAid or UNICEF)
- Storyboard worksheet or comic strip template
- Whiteboard and markers
- Projector (optional)
- Printout or slide of UN SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy for All
- Optional: short quotes or facts about energy access globally

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Lesson Steps

1. Introduction: Energy in Our Lives (5–7 minutes)

Discussion prompts:

- "Where do you use energy in your daily routine?"
- "What would be hard to do without electricity?"

Visuals/Slides:

- Photo 1: Modern Irish home with appliances
- Photo 2: Rural classroom using solar lamps in Kenya

Ask:

"What differences do you notice between these two situations?"

2. Energy in Ireland and the World (10 minutes)

Part A – Energy in Ireland (3 minutes):

- Overview of Irish energy sources:

Non-renewable: gas, imported oil

Renewable: wind, solar, hydro

- Ireland's increasing shift to renewables

Part B – Global Energy Inequality (7 minutes):

- Define energy inequality: Unequal access to electricity across the world
- Human Rights Links:

Right to education → Need light to study

Right to health → Hospitals and medicines

Right to safety → Lighting and warmth

- Show UN SDG 7 and explain:

"Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all."

Optional :

Show a 1–2 min video clip highlighting energy inequality or solar power in a developing country.

<https://vimeo.com/765757636?fl=pl&fe=sh>

3. Main Activity: Storytelling – A Day Without Electricity (15–20 minutes)

Instructions:

- "Imagine waking up and there is no electricity all day — at home, in school, or in your community."

Students complete a comic strip or storyboard (choice):

Prompts:

- What happens when you try to get ready?
- How does your school day go?
- How do you feel at night without light or devices?

Supports:

- Comic strip version for reluctant writers
- Sentence starters for students who need literacy scaffolding
- Oral story option for EAL or SEN students

Option to share a few stories with the class

Optional Homework:

"Talk to someone at home about how you could save energy."

Write down 3 ideas 'Energy Action Plan'

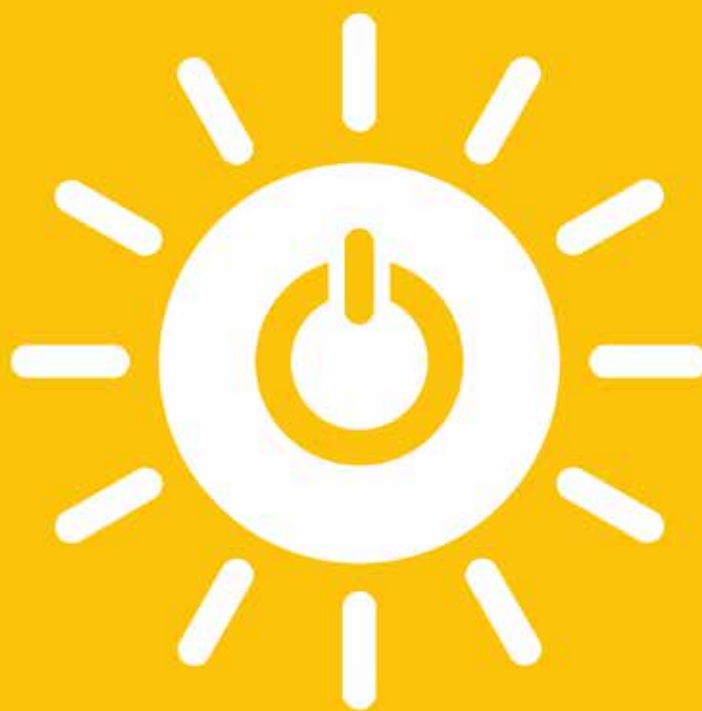
4. Conclusion & Reflection (8–10 minutes)

Class discussion:

- "What was most surprising or difficult in your story?"
- "How would your life change if this was every day?"
- "Why is it important that everyone has access to clean, reliable energy?"



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Affordable and Clean Energy → Energy That's Good for the Earth

Description:

Use power that doesn't harm the planet, like sunlight and wind.

Action:

Do a classroom energy audit, turn off lights, screens and radiators when not in use.