

Energy Theme: Energy Conservation Hierarchy

*Suitable for
Post Primary*



Energy Conservation Hierarchy

How is energy being used in schools?

Note: Not all recommendations will be applicable to all schools, but they can be used as a guide for best practice.

In terms of reducing carbon emissions, schools should concentrate on saving heating and hot water. However, in terms of reducing energy costs schools should look at reducing their electrical usage such as lighting, ICT and electrical equipment.

The following recommendations from the energy in education site (www.energyineducation.ie) give some examples of how energy usage could be reduced in schools.

The following lists the area of energy use - the potential Energy saving opportunities - followed by an indication of cost.

- Lighting - Have a "switch it off" campaign whereby lights are turned off when leaving a room and not being used unnecessarily – No Cost
- Lighting – Clean light fittings regularly as dirt may significantly affect the luminosity – No Cost
- Lighting - Turn off lights when daylight is sufficient – No Cost
- Lighting - Replace old fashioned lightbulbs with LED bulbs– Low Cost
- Lighting - Consider installing motion sensors to switch off lights when room is vacated- Low Cost
- Lighting - Replace T8 magnetic ballast fluorescent fittings or T12 fluorescent fittings with LED fittings. New fittings should be dimmable – Higher Cost

Look at our Green Schools Energy Learn about Lighting resource for more information.



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- Building - Ensure doors and windows are not left open, especially when heating is on – No Cost.
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- Building - Avoid unnecessary heating outside of school hours. Set the heating on a timer- No Cost
- Building - Draught-strip building exit doors – Low Cost
- Building - Insulate pipework in boiler house – Low Cost
- Building - Replace poor or damaged insulation and add to areas not previously insulated (walls, attics, roof) – High Cost

Look at our Green Schools Energy Learn about Heating resource for more information.



- IT Equipment - Ensure IT equipment is not left on 'stand by' for long periods of time or overnight (switch it off)- No Cost
- IT Equipment - Ensure photocopiers/printers/plotters are not left on overnight – No Cost
- IT Equipment - Ensure all appliances in staffrooms are turned off overnight – No Cost