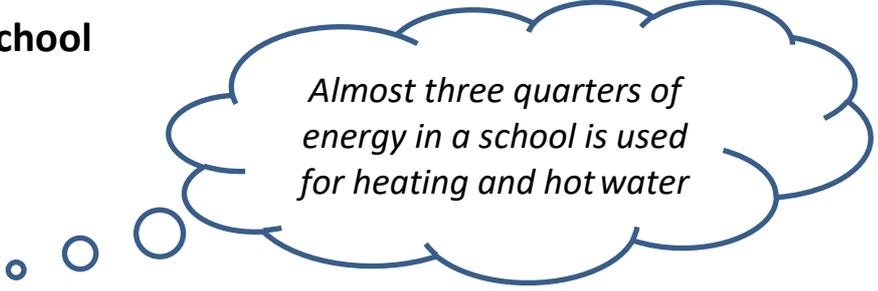


Saving energy at school

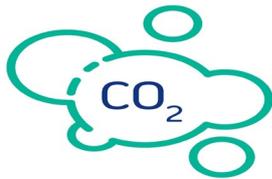


Almost three quarters of energy in a school is used for heating and hot water

Think about it...

Here are some questions to get your class thinking about the energy you use each day at school...

1. *How do you use energy at school? Think about each room; classroom, bathroom, the staff room, the office, the hall.*
2. *Is energy being wasted at school?*
3. *Can you think of ways to save energy at school?*



Energy is used in school for lots of things like heat, light, interactive whiteboards and computers. Most of this energy comes from fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuels for energy produces carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases which are causing climate change.



What can you do?

There are lots of ways to use less energy and make your school more comfortable. You can also save money and take action against climate change by saving energy. Get your class involved in these activities and then see if you can get the whole school involved in saving energy at school?

- Close windows at the end of the school day.
- During winter, close curtains and lower blinds at the end of each day to help keep heat in.
- Set classroom thermostats to 18°C.
- Switch off lights when there is enough daylight, or when a room is empty.
- Switch off the monitor when leaving a computer, even for a short time.
- Choose equipment for the staff room with an A on the energy label.
- Only boil the amount of water needed when boiling a kettle.
- Make sure dishwashers are full before they are switched on.
- Saving water saves energy, don't leave taps running.

Find out more



Resources for Teachers and Student	
<i>Websites</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For factsheets, videos and lots of other information on saving energy at school go to the resources section of the Energy in Education website. Read about how schools around Ireland are saving energy.
<i>Videos</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Clare's Primary school tell us how they save energy at school. Primary pupils tell us how to save energy in the classroom. Watch the Story of Energy video.

Resources for Teachers only	
<i>Classroom activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design a checklist of energy wasting actions, such as lights left on in an empty classroom. Set up a team to check each classroom. At the end of the week, reward the classes that save the most energy. Use the Energy detectives student logbook and wall chart to investigate energy use in school.
<i>Lesson plans</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an energy audit of the school using this lesson plan from SEAI's resource for teaching sustainable energy in Primary School, Chapter five (for 5th and 6th class). Measure energy use in school and see how to take meter readings using this lesson plan. Explore teaching resources available from SEAI, which include videos, lesson plans and interactive whiteboard resources.