

# CHAPTER 5: Saving Energy

## Aim

The aim of this chapter is to explore energy that is used at home and how it can be saved.

## Overview of Chapter

In this chapter the children develop skills and knowledge that will enable them to conduct an energy audit at home.

## Working Scientifically Skills

In this chapter the children will be applying and developing the following scientific skills:

- Observing
- Recording and communicating
- Questioning
- Analysing
- Interpreting

## Primary Science Curriculum link

Strand unit: Caring for my locality and area



## Lesson 1 – Energy audit

### Resources

IWB 12 / PowerPoint 12: Guzzler's house

PCM 12: Energy audit of your home

Internet access

Per group: A3 poster paper, crayons, markers, colouring pencils.

### Finding out children's ideas:

Discuss with the children ways they use energy in their homes. Record the children's responses.

### Questions to promote discussion

- 1 How do we use energy in our homes? Think about each room: The kitchen, the sitting room, the bathroom and the bedroom?
- 2 What electrical appliances do we use most often?

### Activity type: Discuss

- 1 Use IWB 12 / PowerPoint 12 to raise children's awareness about insulation and saving energy.

Using PCM 12 Energy audit of your home, children conduct an audit of energy usage in their homes.

Suggest that the children will need to ask a parent or guardian to help them conduct the energy audit in their homes. It may be necessary to send an information letter to the parents in advance asking for their cooperation with the energy audit.

### Activity type: Recording, researching and communicating

Collate the results from the home audits. Record the results on an IWB or on a large poster. Discuss findings.

### Questions to promote discussion

- 1 What actions that waste energy happen most frequently?
- 2 What are the most popular energy saving actions?
- 3 How do you think energy use could be reduced?
- 4 Do you think it is useful to gather information about how the whole class uses energy at home? Why?
- 5 What things about energy saving would you tell other classes?

Children could use the following book to find out what the top tips are for saving energy, go to The Story of Energy

<https://www.seai.ie/teaching-sustainability/primary-school/resources-for-teachers/>

The children could make posters in small groups on ways to save energy at home (include 5 top tips drawn from the results of the survey). These posters could be displayed throughout the school.

### Extension **e**

The following SEAI resources can be downloaded and used:

Investigation, go to The Energy File book for an investigation on insulation [www.seai.ie/teaching-sustainability/primary-school/resources-for-teachers/](http://www.seai.ie/teaching-sustainability/primary-school/resources-for-teachers/)

Worksheet, go to The Energy File book for a worksheet on Energy in Your Home [www.seai.ie/teaching-sustainability/primary-school/resources-for-teachers/](http://www.seai.ie/teaching-sustainability/primary-school/resources-for-teachers/)

Go to **Energy in Education** for videos and factsheets on saving energy at school.

Lesson plan, [www.seai.ie/teaching-sustainability/primary-school/resources-for-teachers/](http://www.seai.ie/teaching-sustainability/primary-school/resources-for-teachers/)

