

# Campaign: Saving Energy at Home

## 3rd Grade—Weather vs. Climate



### GOAL

Students will create and implement an energy conservation message in their own household.

### OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will:

- Design an energy conservation message
- Create a decorative light switch cover with their message that can be displayed at home
- Talk with at least one family member about energy conservation

### OUTCOME

Students will create a decorative light switch cover that reminds their family to turn off the lights.

### GUIDING QUESTION

How can I save energy at home?

### STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems: Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth's resources and environments.

### GRADE

3rd

### TIME

45-60 minutes

### Overview

Throughout the SWELL unit, students have learned about San Diego's climate, the effects of climate change, and some ways they can help add fewer "heat trapping blankets." In this campaign, students will design and create light switch covers that encourage energy conservation. When they are finished creating the light switch covers, they will use them at home and start a family conversation around energy use.

### Materials

Worksheet (1 printed copy per student)

Light Switch Cover Template (1 printed copy per student)

Scissors

Markers, crayons, or colored pencils

White contact paper, sticker paper, or blank 3x5" labels (optional)

### Instructions

1. This campaign is designed to reinforce and apply concepts that students have learned throughout

the SWELL 3rd grade unit. Before beginning campaigns, students should have completed the following:

- View the webinar or the video lesson
- Participate along with the activity video
- Complete the activity book

2. Have students complete the worksheet, which reviews energy conservation and assists in developing an energy conservation message.

3. Have students cut out the light switch template. They may need an adult's help to cut out the center piece for the switch.

- If using contact paper, sticker paper, or 3x5" labels: Students will trace the light switch template onto the non-adhesive side and then cut it out. After it is cut out and decorated, they will peel the back of the sticker and apply it to their light switch (with permission from their family).

4. Allow students to use markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils to decorate the light switch template with the message. They will also draw pictures to support their message.

5. Next, students should share their completed project with at least one family member. When sharing, they should discuss the following:

- Explain their energy conservation message
- Explain why it is important to turn off the lights when not in use
- Ask if their family has any habits or reminders in place to encourage saving energy

6. After receiving parental permission, students can attach their creations to a light switch.

Did your students make an awesome light switch cover? San Diego Coastkeeper staff would love to see what they made! Send a picture of completed projects to [projectswell@sdcoastkeeper.org](mailto:projectswell@sdcoastkeeper.org).

# Campaign: Saving Energy at Home



## Student Guide

To help save energy at home, you will create a message that reminds people to turn off the lights. Then you will use your message to decorate a sign to put on your light switch (with your family's permission).

Instructions: Read the passage below and then answer the questions.

### Saving Energy at Home

How many ways have you used energy today? Have you turned on a light, used hot water, used a computer, or turned on the TV? Have you eaten something from the refrigerator? We use energy every day. It lets us do many things we enjoy, like playing video games or watching movies. Many people don't think about all the ways they use energy.

Where does energy come from? Power plants make energy from natural resources. Natural resources are things that are found in nature that can be used by people. Some examples include coal, oil, water, and plants. Many types of energy are made by burning fuel. This pollutes the air, which is bad for people and the environment. Many of the natural resources we use to make energy can only be used once. That means once we use them up, they're gone for good. That's why it's important that we only use what we need.

Have you ever felt how warm a lightbulb gets when you leave it on? Only 10% of the energy that a lightbulb uses makes light. The rest makes heat. If we leave the lights on when we don't need them, a lot of the energy is wasted. Wasted energy isn't good for the earth. Remember, the more energy we use, the more fuel we have to burn, and the more pollution we make.

We can save energy in a lot of ways. Things that are plugged in will use some energy, even if they're turned off. That's why it's a good idea to unplug appliances you don't use often. Instead of leaving the lights on when you leave the room, you can turn the lights off. If you have a heater or air conditioner, you can use it less often. You can also make sure to turn off the TV or video games when you're done. All of these things can help the Earth and save energy for the future.

Why is it important to save energy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is one way you can save energy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Instructions

1. Let's create our message. First, we need an action that we want people to do. Here are some different ways we talk about saving energy. Choose one of the actions above that you like best, or come up with another way to say it.
  - Turn off the lights

- Power down
  - Lights off
  - Save energy
  - Energy conservation (conserving something means using it wisely)
2. Next, you will come up with your own creative message. You can do this in a few ways:
- You can write a funny message...
    - Join the dark side and turn off the lights!
    - I moustache you to turn off the lights.
  - You can use a rhyme...
    - Think bright, turn off that light.
    - Power down when you're not around.
    - Do the Earth a favor... be an energy saver!
  - Or you can keep it simple.
    - Please turn off the lights when you're done!
    - Don't forget to switch it off.
3. Use the lines below to write down some ideas for your message. Don't worry about filling all the lines or making a perfect message. Write down whatever you think of, and later you can choose your favorite.

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Once you've created a message you like, you can move on to the next step.

4. Print and cut out the light switch template. You can ask an adult to help you with cutting out the middle part.
5. Now it's time to decorate. Before using colors, you might want to plan your design with pencil. Make sure that your message has room to fit on the template! Then, add colors and pictures to decorate your light switch. See the next page for some examples made by students and Coastkeeper staff.
6. Now it's time to share your creation with someone in your family. Show them your light switch and talk about these ideas:
- What is your energy saving message?
  - Why is it important to turn off the lights when they're not being used?
  - Does your family have any habits or reminders to keep lights off when not in use?
7. If your family says it is okay, you can stick your decoration onto one of your light switches. Now everyone will remember to turn off the light!

## Project Checklist

- I read the paragraph and answered the questions
- I created my energy-saving message
- I printed and cut out the light switch cover template
- I decorated my light switch with my message and pictures
- I shared my light switch with at least one person in my family
- I talked about the 3 questions with my family
- I put my creation on a light switch in my home (with my family's permission)

