



Powering Our Homes

Many of the devices and appliances we use at home require energy. Unfortunately, generating the energy we need creates nasty gases (greenhouse gases). This activity introduces students to the concept of domestic energy consumption by asking them to think about the amount of energy consumed in their own homes.

Preparation:

Before you begin the activity we recommend reading our free kid's book on energy with the class. Sven's Search for Clean Energy can be found in our children's book website: <https://climatescience.org/children>. This book can help students better understand the concept of energy and allows them to explore potential consequences and solutions

You will then need to provide students with a blank sheet of paper or print out the template found in the student handout so they can map out their home.

If you believe the activity may trouble certain students due to apparent wealth disparities, you may want to permit alternative locations. For example, they could also draw a friend's house or even the school.

Following this activity, we recommend brainstorming ways in which students can help the planet by reducing their energy consumption at home.

Ways to reduce energy consumption:

- Turn off the lights when you don't need them
- Take shorter showers
- Close the doors and windows when using air conditioning or heating
- Instead of using a dryer, dry your clothes outside
- Don't leave the refrigerator open
- Unplug appliances you're not using (some appliances continue to use energy even when turned off).
- Open windows instead of using air conditioning.
- Spend time doing activities that require less energy, such as reading books, playing board games, or playing outside.

We welcome feedback and would be delighted to hear your thoughts on this activity. Feel free to send an email to schools@climatescience.org and we'll be sure to get back to you soon :)