



“As the founder of a youth-run organization, I’ve been able to witness first hand the power of young people when they unite as one voice behind an issue facing our world. Lights Out Canada is a shining example of this power— proof positive of what young people can accomplish for our society and for the issues we care about. Hope is burning bright in our collective dream to solve the problems created by global warming and, indeed, all the issues facing our world.”

-D.SIMON JACKSON
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“Turn off the
lights & switch
on education
about global
warming”

Lesson Plan and Event Guide

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What is Lights Out Canada?

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Lights Out Canada is an annual event during which schools across the country turn off their lights and spend the day engaging with climate change awareness and action. Through Lights Out, participants:

- Engage with the science of climate change, why it is occurring and its consequences.
- Consider how to change everyday habits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Identify opportunities to green schools, homes and communities.
- Are empowered to act on these opportunities, lead more sustainable lifestyles and model positive change.

We provide comprehensive lesson plans, step-by-step participation guides, and posters in order to make Lights Out Canada a success in participating schools. These materials are available for free download on our website. By increasing awareness and encouraging discussion, active participants will make a conscious effort to curb their energy use, both at school and at home.

OUR LESSON PLANS DETAIL:

- What is climate change?
- Why is it occurring?
- Why is it a problem?
- How can I make a difference?

Over 1.5 million students have participated in Lights Out since 2005. The event is held annually on or around April 22nd (or the day that would work best for your school).

Lights Out Canada was launched by a high school student on Vancouver Island in 2005 and is run on a volunteer basis for youth, by youth. The Lights Out team coordinates the project because climate change is not a far off concept, it is happening now, and its effects are being felt today. Ice in the Arctic is melting. Ocean levels are on the rise, and changing climates have contributed

to the extreme weather felt around the world. The repercussions of growing greenhouse gas emissions will be one of the greatest, if not the most prominent, issues that our generation will face. Lights Out Canada will not stop global warming. It will, however, give students foundational tools to understand the challenges we face and that we all need to take action to preserve our country, and our planet, for future generations.

Event Guide

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Action Plan for Administrators

The Lights Out Team would like to thank you for your leadership on sustainability and on empowering your students to affect positive change. We have included step-by-step instructions for how to make Lights Out Canada a success at your school.

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- Read the Lights Out Canada “Project Summary” under “About” on our website: www.lightsoutcanada.org. If you have any questions about the project check out our FAQ page on the website or email the Lights Out Team at: lightsoutcanada@gmail.com.
- At the next staff meeting, discuss issues that you might encounter and contact the Lights Out team if we can help you address any challenges you foresee. Consider how to raise awareness about the event within the student body.
- Make sure that April 22nd (Lights Out day) is not in conflict with any scheduled events at your school. Lights will be out in all participating schools simultaneously; however, we will not exclude any school if there is a conflict of timing and a leeway of a week or so is completely reasonable.
- Contact other schools in the district and get them involved in a district-wide Lights Out day!
- Fill out and distribute a customizable press release for schools under “Downloads” on our website. The media loves stories of positive change and a phone call to the local newspaper is often all it takes. Let us know if you do receive media attention, so that we can feature you on our website!
- Pass along the Lights Out summary to your school’s environmental club and encourage students to give presentations at staff meetings, to help advertise the event and get involved in its organization.
- Take pictures on the Lights Out day and email them to lightsoutcanada@gmail.com, tweet them to @LightsOutCanada or Instagram them and tag @Lights Out Canada so that we can repost and feature them on our website!
- When the day arrives, make announcements to further notify students of the event, and take pride in your role in combating, and raising awareness about, global warming.

Action Plan for Students

Follow these steps to make Lights Out Canada a success at your school! For more ideas about activities to promote in the lead-up to Lights Out, check out The Centre for Green School's "11 Ways to Green Your School" blog.¹

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NOW Read through the "Project Summary". Visit: www.lightsoutcanada.org for more information and downloads. If you have any further questions about the project, email the Lights Out Team at lightsoutcanada@gmail.com.

Meet with administrators and a teacher who you think would be interested in helping you with the project (perhaps your Leadership or Student Council facilitator). Bring the "Steps for Teachers" and "Steps for Administrators" pages.

Today is better than tomorrow! Start planning the event right away. Below is a timeline of organizational milestones to plan for.

**UP UNTIL
APRIL 22nd** Once you have discussed the project with your principal and received permission, register your school on www.lightsoutcanada.org. We will accept registrations up until the Lights Out day, however, to ensure that we're able to email lesson plans to teachers in advance, register as early as possible.

**MID-
FEBRUARY:** Take the project idea to your school's leadership class and student council. Ask other groups to help you put up posters and promote the event.

**LATE-
FEBRUARY:** Present Lights Out Canada at a staff meeting, or ask your teacher liaison or principal to let all of the teachers know about the project. An easy way to do this would be to present the information on the Lights Out "Project Summary".

**1st week of
APRIL:** Put up the Lights Out posters. Ask permission from your teacher to use the school's photocopier or print off the Lights Out posters from www.lightsoutcanada.org (under "Downloads"). If possible, please use recycled paper and save the poster for future Lights Out events or be sure to recycle them.

**2nd week of
APRIL:** Ask permission from your liaison teacher to photocopy and distribute the lesson plans at least two weeks in advance to teachers that request hard copies. Make announcements reminding the teachers that is where they are located. NOTE: The lesson plans are to be run through at the beginning of the Lights Out Day, so save paper and only distribute them to teachers that will have classes that morning. Don't forget to photocopy on both sides and use recycled paper if possible.

**3rd week of
APRIL:** Make announcements on the PA or website to let your school know Lights Out is coming up. Include a blurb such as: "Lights Out Canada - On April 22nd, our school will be participating in Lights Out Canada. Get ready to turn off the lights and switch on education about climate change!"

¹ <http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/green-building-program-sub/learn-about-green-building/11-ways-to-green-your-school.html>

Ask your teachers if you can have 3 minutes at the beginning of each class to remind people of the event and why your school is participating. If you are enthusiastic, your peers will be too! Email us and we will provide you with copies of the presentations we use.

APRIL 22nd Turn off the lights! Take pictures that show us how your school marked the day and share on social media if appropriate in your school.

Action Plan for Teachers

You are part of a network of thousands of teachers across the country that are helping to preserve our planet for future generations. Thank you for your support; Lights Out would not be possible without you.

ASAP Read the Project Summary and Lesson Plan.

When reading the lesson plan, remember that it is just a guide. If you have a different idea of how you would like to present the information to you class please use your discretion.

ONGOING Encourage your students to make tangible commitments to reduce their ecological footprints. Earth Day Canada has a interactive and comprehensive program through which individuals and schools can do so: <http://www.earthday.ca/campaigns>

If you know of a student or student group that would be interested in representing the Lights Out team in your school, let us know at [lightsoutcanada@gmail.com!](mailto:lightsoutcanada@gmail.com)

BE ENTHUSIASTIC Please help us convey our excitement about the event to your students. Although global warming is a serious issue with dire consequences, we want our peers to be excited about the possibility of change and for them to translate this excitement into action.

LATE-FEBRUARY Having students, administration, staff and teachers on the same page is key to a successful event. Please attend the meeting that will be set-up by your student liaison.

EARLY APRIL Bring up Lights Out at your staff meeting. Ask your colleagues to share what they are planning for the Lights Out day. For access to a wide range of lesson plans that go into detail on climate change and its myriad impacts register on www.greenlearning.ca and visit their Climate Change Resource Centre.

APRIL 22nd Turn out the lights, go through the lesson plan, take pictures of how your class is celebrating Lights Out and send them to us so that we can feature them on our website and social media!

Teacher's Lesson Plan

Please go over these concepts and brainstorming activities with your class at the beginning of the Lights Out day.

INTRODUCTION FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

The following Earth Day Announcements are intended as a starting point and introduction to Lights Out Canada day in your school. It is also meant to be an introduction to some environmental concerns and concepts, not ponderous ones for students of this age, but factual ones with an overall tone of hopefulness and the realization that even youngsters can "make a big difference by doing small things."

The intent is that the information be presented over the PA system to the school population by students. With a partner, each student can read a portion of the "Earth Day Announcement" over a number of days leading up to and following the Lights Out event. The suggested activities (which are listed following each announcement) support each message's intent but are merely a springboard to further discussion. Hopefully, the suggestions will aid you in further developing your lessons to suit the emphasis and focus you wish to place on this most-important information about environmental awareness and action with your class.

The questions; "What is Global Warming?" "Why is it happening?" "Why is it a problem?" and "How can you make a difference?" are addressed in a variety of ways throughout. Included are but a few suggested sites, books, ideas, and resources taken from the enormous amount of information available. The information contained in the daily announcements has been condensed, summarized, and taken from the various sources listed throughout this lesson plan/guide.

LIGHTS OUT Announcement #1

STOP GLOBAL WARMING before it spreads across the planet near you!

So what exactly is GLOBAL WARMING?

Well, pretend it is nighttime and you are fast asleep in bed, with lots of blankets covering you. Suddenly, you wake up because you are too hot and sweaty. So what do you do? You kick off the covers. Cool air hits your legs. Ahh – much better! You fall back to sleep and wake up ready for school.

Now picture Earth. Certain gases that have been collecting in the atmosphere for the past 100 years create something like a heavy blanket around the Earth. The sun heats the Earth and the heat becomes trapped under the blanket. Then the Earth begins to feel too hot. But

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the Earth can't just kick off that cover to cool down. (from "The Down-to-Earth-Guide to Global Warming" Laurie David and Cambria Gordon)

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This is GLOBAL WARMING. Our planet is heating up and there are many reasons this is happening. But there are so many things you can do to stop it, too, starting today.

We can keep Earth clean by following the rules of "reduce, reuse, and recycle". Reduce means use less. We can reduce our use of resources like water or gasoline. Reuse means use again, rather than throw things away. We can reuse many things, such as jars, plastic bags, and boxes. Recycle means to make something new from something old. We can keep Earth clean by recycling materials such as aluminum paper, and plastic. If we take these things to a recycling center, they can be used again in a different way.

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Soon it will be LIGHTS OUT CANADA DAY. It is on April 22nd every year in partnership with Earth Day Canada. Earth Day is a day to remind us how important it is to take care of Earth every single day. We can take care of our planet by keeping it clean and by doing many other things, as well.

Earth Day is also LIGHTS OUT DAY in schools across Canada and around the world. It is a day on which we will turn off lights in schools to remind us of the simple things we can do to take care of our Earth. During the coming days, listen for all the other things you can do as well to help our beautiful planet and to help stop Global Warming.

LIGHTS OUT Announcement #2

Today is Earth Day. It is also LIGHTS OUT CANADA day and LIGHTS OUT NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL HERE day. Why are we and hundreds of other schools across Canada, and in other countries around the world, doing this?

Scientists are worried about our Earth. They think that Global Warming and Climate Change are happening because of things people are doing to our Earth. Scientists would like people to take better care of our world. It's the only one we have.

One small thing everybody can do to help our Earth, is to turn off the lights when you don't need them. We are doing this at school today because it reminds us to do this small thing whenever we can. When we turn off the lights, we save a lot of energy which is a very important thing to do. There are many other small things we can do, too.

Find the LIGHTS OUT NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL HERE posters* in the hallways to learn some other easy things you can do to help take better care of our planet.

When many people do many small things they can make big changes. You can do a lot to help.

Each day, for the next two weeks, we will tell you about other things you can do to help our environment. Please listen for our announcements. Remember, "Small changes add up to make a BIG difference." HAPPY EARTH DAY!

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Suggested Activities:

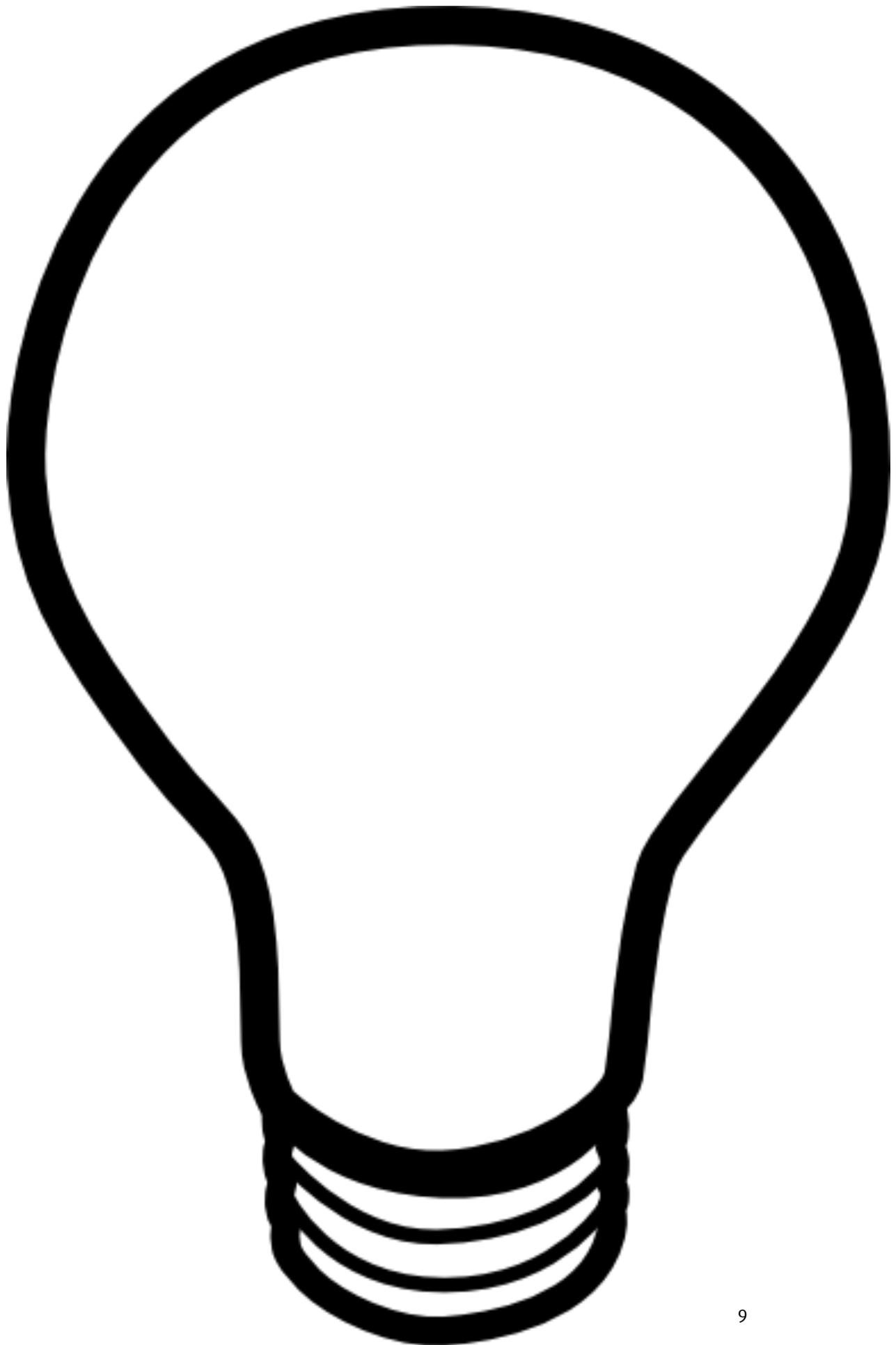
1. If you have an Environment Club/Green Team at your school, perhaps they could be responsible for creating these posters (below), each with a Lights Out date reminder or pertinent environmental message printed around the perimeter. Here are several sites with fun ideas to try:

- http://www.makingfriends.com/earth_coffee.htm
- <http://familycrafts.about.com/od/earthdaycrafts/a/CFEarth.htm>

When dry, the coffee-filter Earth can be glued onto the round portion of a light bulb graphic (similar to the light bulb shown below).

These can then be displayed around your school. Image sourced from: <http://www.clker.com/clipart-6943.html>

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2. As an Art and Writing activity, have students create an environmental alphabet – in which each letter explains/describes an “earth-saving” action, a reminder or a tip. Incorporate Art by having students work on some form of special, fancy lettering for each (using a particular medium, style of lettering, etc). These can then also be displayed in the school.

- A – Avoid...
- B – Buy...
- C – Create...
- D – Discard...
- E – Encourage...
- F – Fix...
- G – Green... (our planet by...)
- H – Hang... (clothes...)
- I – Invite...
- J – Join...
- K – Keep...
- L – LIGHTS OUT CANADA!
- M – Make...
- N – Never...
- O – Organize...
- P – Protect...
- Q – Quit...
- R – Rethink...Reduce...Reuse...Recycle...
- S – Save...
- T – TURN OFF LIGHTS!
- U – Use and re-use...
- V – Visit...
- W – Wrap...
- X – eXpress and eXplain...
- Y – You can make a difference!
- Z – Zoom...

3. Students can also brainstorm for additional “earth-saving-what-else-can-you-do?” actions, as follows;

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

Save electricity at home. Whenever we use electricity, we put greenhouse gases into the air. By turning off the TV, your computer, and the lights when you are through with them, you can help a lot. Don't leave the fridge door open longer than you need to.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

Ride your bike, run, or walk whenever you can. To save energy, you can help a lot by riding the bus, carpooling, walking, or riding your bike whenever you can.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

Talk to your parents about climate change. Let them know what you've learned. You can help a lot by talking to them about changes you think your family can make.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

Plant trees. You can help a lot by planting trees. It's fun and a great way to reduce greenhouse gases. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from the air.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

Recycle. Recycle means to make something new from something old. You can help a lot by recycling cans, bottles, newspapers, and plastic bags. If we take these things to a recycling centre, they can be used again in a different way. This helps to keep Earth clean.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

Reduce and reuse. Reduce means to use less. We can reduce our use of water and gas. You can help a lot by turning off the tap when you brush your teeth and not wasting water. Reuse means to use again, rather than throw things away. You can help a lot by using jars, plastic bags, and boxes over and over again.

And so on...

4. Read the book called "S is for Save the Planet A How-to-be Green Alphabet" (by Brad Herzog) and visit this site (teacher's guide); <http://www.gale.cengage.com/pdf/TeachersGuides/EnvironmentGuide.pdf> for more ideas.

LIGHTS OUT Announcement #3

Yesterday was Earth Day and LIGHTS OUT INSERT NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL HERE day. Our school, and hundreds of other schools across Canada, the United States, and other countries around the world turned off their lights.

This was such an easy and small thing to do! By turning off the lights at school*, it reminded us that we should turn off lights at home, too. This saves a lot of energy which is important for our world. When many people do many small things, they can make a BIG difference.

Scientists tell us that we need to take better care of our planet. You can do a lot to help.

Another way you can help is to be very careful to not waste water. When you brush your teeth, remember to turn off the faucet. Never let the water run.

Also, when you take a shower try to take a quicker shower. When you take a bath, do not fill your tub to the top. By using less water - we save water - which is important. These are small and easy things you can do.

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Remember, "Small changes add up to make a BIG difference." HAPPY "I-will-take-care-of-the-Earth" DAY!

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Suggested Activities:

Have students create visual reminders to turn off the lights when they are not needed. Display these next to light switch plates in every room in your school.

REMEMBER TO TURN ME OFF!

The reading activities below can be used in numerous ways...
YOU CAN SAVE THE PLANET

NAME _____ DATE _____

Turn it off!

When you leave your computers, TVs and DVD players on standby, they keep using energy! If there are small lights (usually red or green) that stay on, then the device is in "standby mode" which means that they are continuing to use energy. Lots of times, this will happen if you use a remote to turn off a device instead of switching them off at the source. This translates into wasted energy (because you aren't using the electronics when they are in standby anyways!) and into wasted money. To make sure that a device is turned off, turn them off at the source or unplug them completely. Share this information with your family and let them know that turning devices fully off means reduced energy bills and is better for the environment!

YOU CAN SAVE THE PLANET

NAME _____ DATE _____

Choose the Right Light Bulb

Checking the light bulbs throughout your house can result in saving a lot of energy. What should you look for? You are looking to check if they have energy-efficient light bulbs. Did you know that compact fluorescent bulbs (the spiral shaped bulbs) last 10 times as long as incandescent bulbs and that LEDs last 45 times as long as incandescents (traditional light bulbs) and 4.5 times longer than compact fluorescents. If you find inefficient bulbs, consider talking to your family about either replacing them with efficient ones when the old ones

burn out. And don't forget to turn out lights around your house and school when they are not in use!

YOU CAN SAVE THE PLANET

Water cycle diagram: <http://www.smwd.com/community/kids-corner.html>

NAME _____ DATE _____

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Don't Waste Water

Did you know that life on Earth would not be possible without water? All living things (plants, animals, and insects) needs water to live. When you look at a globe, or a map, you probably noticed how much of it is coloured blue. The blue areas show us where water is on Earth and how much of it there is. But did you know that even though a large amount of Earth's surface is covered with water (70%), only a very small amount (2.5%) of it is fresh water that we can actually drink. Some fresh water is hard for us to get because it may be frozen (in glaciers and ice caps) or it may be buried underground (in aquifers).

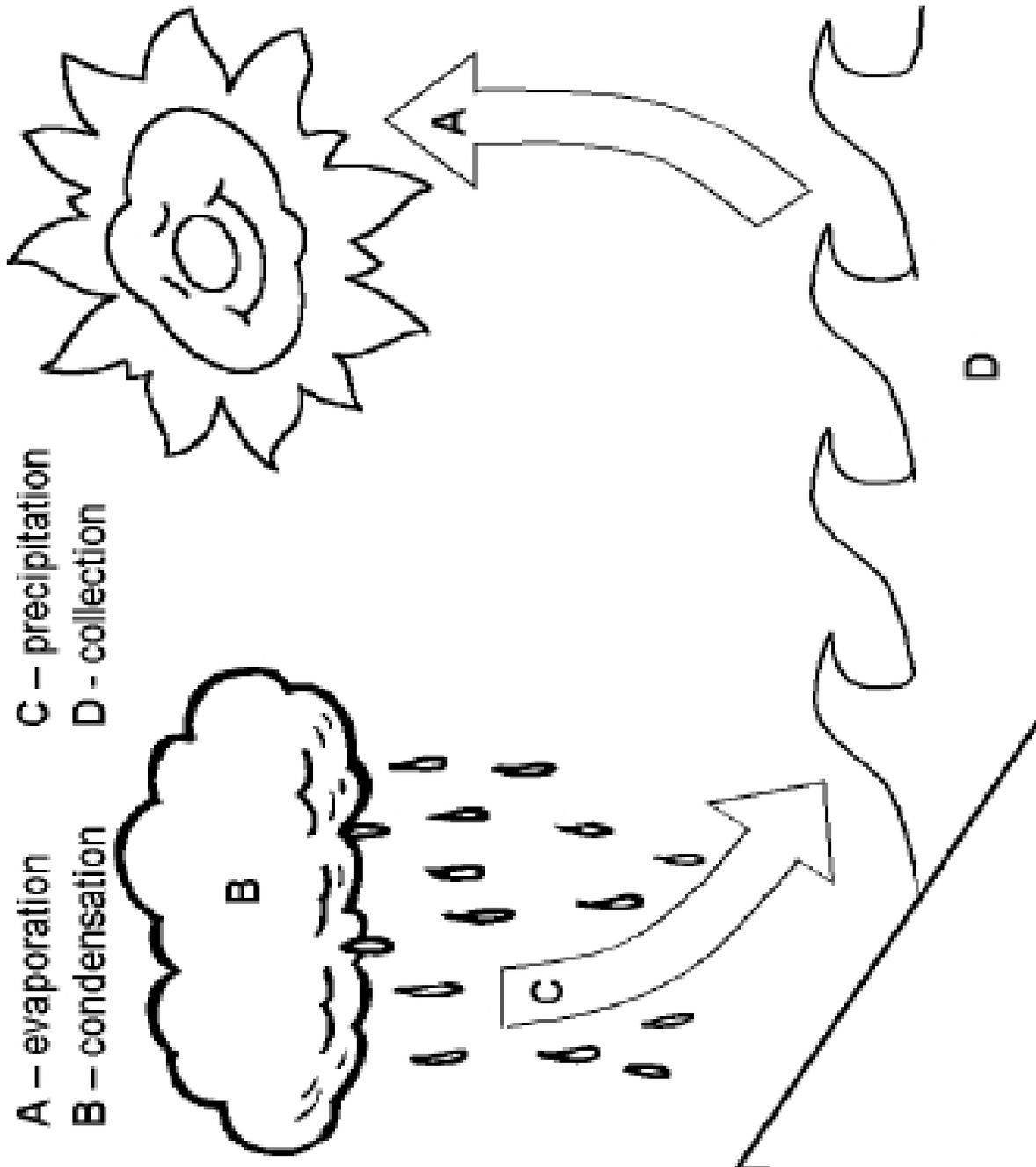
This means it is important for us to think of ways to save every drop of water in our taps the best we can so that we do not waste it. Remember never to leave the tap running. This wastes a lot of water. When you are washing your hands turn on the tap to wet them, turn it off while you are washing up then turn the tap on again to quickly rinse them. Don't let the tap run when you are brushing your teeth, either. If you notice that a tap is dripping, remind your parents to fix it. Have a short shower instead of a full bath. This uses a third of the amount of water - which means you are saving a lot! When you see someone using a hose to water outdoor plants, remind them that hoses waste a huge amount of water and to use a watering can instead. You could even put out a rain barrel to catch rain water to use for your plants and garden. Only turn on your dishwasher when it is completely full. Can you think of other ways to save water?

It may surprise you to learn that the amount of water we have on Earth has always been the same. In other words, there is no more water available now than there was when the dinosaurs were around. How can that be? Well, amazingly, water gets recycled by nature over and over and over again. As there is no way to get new water, we need to be careful with the supply we have. (From "You Can Save the Planet 50 Ways You Can Save the Planet" Jacquie Wines)

Here is how it works:

THE WATER CYCLE

Images sourced from: <http://www.kidzone.ws/water/bactivity1.htm>



Evaporation



Evaporation is when the sun heats up water in rivers or lakes or the ocean and turns it into vapor or steam. The water vapor or steam leaves the river, lake or ocean and goes into the air. Make your own

Condensation



Water vapor in the air gets cold and changes back into liquid, forming clouds. This is called condensation.

Precipitation



Precipitation occurs when so much water has condensed that the air cannot hold it anymore. The clouds get heavy and water falls back to the earth in the form of rain, hail or snow.

If you continue the condensation experiment long enough, so much water will condense on the book that it won't be able to hold it all. At that point, water will start dripping down from the book and you've created precipitation!

Collection



When water falls back to earth as precipitation, it may fall back in the oceans, lakes or rivers or it may end up on land. When it ends up on land, it will either soak into the earth and become part of the "ground water" that plants and animals use to drink or it may run over the soil and collect in the oceans, lakes or rivers where the cycle starts all over again.

LIGHTS OUT Announcement #4

Every day is Earth Day
If it's cold or wet or hot
Pitch in to save the planet
it's the only one we've got.

Let's take better care of our beautiful planet. You can do a lot to help.

Remember to turn off the lights to save energy, and to save water by using less of it. When many people do many small things, they can make a BIG difference.

At school, there are many small things you can do to make a big difference, too. Use your crayons, rulers and other school supplies until you really need new ones. Make sure that you use both sides of your papers.

You can also ask your parents to pack your lunch in reusable containers, instead of in plastic baggies or plastic wrap. Pick up litter on our school grounds. These are small, but important things everybody can do!

Earth Day has come and gone but don't forget that every day is EARTH DAY! Remember, "Small changes add up to make a BIG difference." HAPPY "I-will-take-care-of-the-Earth" DAY!

Suggested Activity

Encourage a "nood-food" policy in classrooms (children remove all wrappers and peels from snacks or lunch items before going outside for recess or lunch play breaks.) Have garbage cans conveniently located at all exits to encourage/support this habit. Also, establish a rotating class roster for playground litter clean-up (Perhaps assign one class per week to be responsible for picking up litter twice during their time. Ask for community support in the purchase of a class supply of large garbage-grabbing, litter tongs to be shared.) Have children create bright, bold, attention-grabbing "Stash Your Trash" posters, using the familiar graphic shown below as a guide, to be displayed in obvious places as a visual reminder.

LIGHTS OUT Announcement #5

Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle – words that we all know
We have to save our planet so we can live and grow
We might only be children, but if we try you'll see
Together we can save this planet – it starts with you and me!

The most important of the three R's is to REDUCE. This means to use less and to also buy less. When your family shops, try not to buy things that have layers of packaging. Buy in bulk whenever possible. You won't have to shop as often, and you won't have as much to throw away.

There are many ways you can REDUCE the amount of energy you use at home. You can hang up your washed clothes to dry instead of using the dryer. You can lower the heat in your house by just a few degrees and save a huge amount of energy. (If you're chilly, just put on a sweater instead of turning up the heat.) This is a small, easy, and important thing to do.

There are many ways you can REDUCE the amount of plastic that ends up being thrown away in the garbage each day. Instead of carrying groceries in plastic (or paper) bags that get thrown away, take your own cloth bags to the store. In this way, less plastic needs to be produced. This means that less plastic will end up being thrown away in landfills each day. This is a small, easy and important thing to do.

There are many ways you can REDUCE your use of our planet's resources (like fossil fuels, trees, water). Use a special travel mug or your own special water bottle instead of paper cups (or plastic bottles) that are used only once and then get thrown away. Only take what you can eat so that uneaten food is not thrown out and wasted. Save paper. When you have to wrap a birthday present, a fun way to save paper is to use fabric, or the comic section from newspapers instead of using wrapping paper. These are small, easy and important things to do.

Let's take better care of our beautiful planet! You can do a lot to help.

Remember every day is Earth Day
Whether it's cold or wet or hot
Pitch in to save the planet
It's the only one we've got.

Also, remember, "Small changes add up to make a BIG difference." HAPPY "I-will-take-care-of-the-Earth" DAY!

Suggested Activity

Have class sing "Working on the Trash" at a school assembly in conjunction with Earth Day and Lights Out day activities. Use it as an introduction to, and further discussion of the 3 R's. Source: <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/songspoems51.html>

WORKING ON THE TRASH

(sung to "I've Been Working on the Railroad")

We've been working on REDUCING
All the trash we can.

“Turn **off** the
lights & switch
on education
about global
warming”

We've been working on reducing
It's a very simple plan.
Don't go wasting any products,
Use just exactly what you need.
Don't buy things in extra wrapping,
Reduce and you'll succeed!
We've been working on REUSING
All the trash we can.
We've been working on reusing,
It's a very simple plan.
If it's a paper bag you're using,
Don't use it once, use it twice!
Give old clothes and toys to someone,
To reuse them would be nice!
We've been working on RECYCLING
All the trash we can,
We've been working on recycling,
It's a very simple plan,
Separate your glass and paper,
Separate your plastic and tin.
Take the trash that you've recycled
your recycling bin!

LIGHTS OUT Announcement #6

Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle – words that we all know
We have to save our planet so we can live and grow
We might only be children, but if we try you'll see
Together we can save this planet – it starts with you and me!

Yesterday, we learned that the word REDUCE means to use less and to buy less. When we buy less, and use only what we need, we don't throw away as much and we save energy. A simple phrase that you can remember is “take what you need and use what you take.”

Another very important way of reducing the amount of trash that goes into the garbage is to REUSE things instead of buying new things. REUSE also means to keep using the same things as many times as you can. Doing this will save energy. At school, we can make some very interesting and fun projects from things we REUSE.

At home, many of the things we buy come in useful containers that we can REUSE. Screw top jars, such as coffee jars, can be reused in the kitchen for storing things like twist ties. Some foods come in cardboard containers with plastic lids. These can be used for keeping nails and screws in.

Large plastic pop bottles can be REUSED in many different ways. Gardeners cut them in half and use them to protect their plants. They can also be made into funnels. Small plastic pop bottles can even be reused as hummingbird feeders. Clothes that no longer fit, and old toys or bikes that are too small, can all be given to a younger brother or sister, to a cousin, or even to friends who can REUSE them.

Some charities collect glasses which are sent to different countries where they are reused to help poor people see clearly again. Some people collect tools, fix them up, and send them to people who really need them. Some people collect unwanted furniture, clean it up and sell it cheaply to others. These are all important ways to REUSE many things which are still perfectly usable!

Let's love our beautiful planet and take better care of it! You can do a lot to help. Look around your house for things you can REUSE.

Remember every day is Earth Day
Whether it's cold or wet or hot
Pitch in to save the planet
It's the only one we've got.

Also, remember, "Small changes add up to make a BIG difference." HAPPY "I-will-take-care-of-the-Earth" DAY!

Suggested Activity

Use poem "Recycling in My Home" to begin a discussion and investigation to determine what three R measures are being practiced in your school, and what efforts are being made at home. Students make lists to discover what is and what isn't being done. (Have a look at this site <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/kids/happy.pdf>) Have them come up with suggestions (for both school and home) to implement or improve recycling habits and commitments. Discuss the poem/song's pattern, stanza rhythm, its rhyming words, etc. As a writing activity for your students, have them compose new stanzas which reflect what they are doing.

Recycling In My Home (to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus") <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/songspoems51.html>

Recycling in my home goes round and round,
Round and round, round and round.
Recycling in my home goes round and round,
All through the day.
Tie up the papers and take them back,
Take them back, take them back.
Tie up the papers and take them back,
All through the day.
Crush the cans and take them back...

Rinse the milk bottles and take them back...
Save the glass and take it back...

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More ideas and information can be found and used at your discretion at the following sites:

- <http://www.clean-airkids.org.uk/information.html>
- <http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/index.cfm>
- <http://www.coloring.ws/earth.htm>
- <http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/earth/index.html>
- <http://www.theteachersguide.com/earthdaylessonplans.htm>

“Turn off the
lights & switch
on education
about global
warming”

LIGHTS OUT Announcement #7

Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
Important words that we all know
Protect, Respect, Our Only Earth
You'll be an Environmental PRO!

Recycle means to make something new from something old. We can keep Earth clean by recycling materials such as aluminum paper, and plastic. If we take these things to a recycling center, they can be turned into other useful items, and then used again in a different way. For example, scrap paper from the classroom might be turned into newspaper or paper bags when it's sent to the recycling plant.

Did you know that environmentalists were concerned that recycling might be a bad thing? Environmentalists worried that the idea people could recycle would make them forget to reduce and reuse. This could lead to our resources being used up faster than they would be if we only had 2 R's. It's important that we try to REDUCE and REUSE first and RECYCLE only if we can't do the other two. That's why the 3 R's come in the order REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE. They're listed in the order that we should try to do them. By RETHINKING our old ways of doing things, we can change our bad habits into good-for-the-planet habits!

Remember every day is Earth Day
Whether it's cold or wet or hot
Pitch in to save the planet
It's the only one we've got.

We can all be environmental PRO's by taking pride in the things we do to Protect the environment, by being respectful of our environment, and by remembering we only have One Earth! Also, remember, "Small changes add up to make a BIG difference." HAPPY "I-will-take-care-of-the-Earth" DAY!

Further Resources

There is an enormous wealth of information, resources, and activities for students, teachers and families alike that can be accessed from a variety of sources depending on your teaching and learning focus, as well as your need. The sources listed below are merely a few to choose from at your discretion;

RECYCLING CLIP ART

<http://www.planetpals.com/recyclesymbols.html>

GAMES TO PLAY

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/03/lp308-02.shtml

SONGS

http://www.teach-nology.com/worksheets/early_childhood/songs/recycle/

CRAFT PROJECTS FROM RECYCLED ITEMS

<http://www.allfreecrafts.com/recycling-crafts/index.shtml#denim>

http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/recycling_for_kids.htm

RECYCLE POSTERS

<http://www.planetpals.com/pprecycle.html>

<http://www.planetpals.com/pdfimages/pprecyclekit1.pdf>

<http://www.planetpals.com/pdfimages/PPrecyclekit2.pdf>

http://www.planetpals.com/pdfimages/recyclekit3_b.pdf

WORKSHEET

http://www.dltk-kids.com/t_template.asp?t=http://www.kidzone.ws/images/3rs.gif

http://www.abcteach.com/free/r/rc_earthday_elem.pdf

LESSON PLANS

http://www.k6edu.com/2ndgrade/social_studies/reduce-reuse-recycle.html

<http://www.kidzone.ws/plans/viewprint.asp?i=150>

SITES

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/index.htm>

<http://www.alligatorboogaloo.com/kids/features/globey/globey004.html> (This site illustrates and explains in a simple, easy-to-follow sequence the process of production, and how recycling can eliminate some of those steps...)

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS (WORKBOOK)

“Ready, Set, Go Green! Eco-Friendly Activities for School and Home” Frank Schaffer Publications

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR TEACHERS

“You Can Save the Planet 50 Ways You Can Make a Difference”

Written by Jacquie Wines
Illustrated by Sarah Horne

“The Down-to-Earth-Guide to Global Warming” Written by Laurie David and Cambria Gordon

“Global Warming Grades 1-3”
Popular Teaching Resources (Smart Series)
(teacher resource book of reproducibles, information sheets, student worksheets and checklists)

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

“The Three R’s: Reuse, Reduce, Recycle”

Written by Nuria Roca
Illustrated by Rosa M. Curto

“The Earth and I”
Written by Frank Asch

“Earth Day- Hooray!”
Written by Stuart J, Murphy
Illustrated by Renee Andriani

“Magic School Bus Gets Recycled”
Written by Anne Capeci
Illustrated by Carolyn Bracken

“Earth in Danger”
Written by Kate Waters

Series:

“Why Should I Protect Nature?”

“Why Should I Recycle?”

“Why Should I Save Energy?”

“Why Should I Save Water?”

Written by Jen Green
Illustrated by Mike Gordon

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“Turn off the lights & switch on education about global warming”

These great poems & songs can be found at: <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/songspoems51.html>

EARTH DAY BADGE

I’m proud to wear my Earth Day badge
I give the Earth a hand.
I pick up litter, care for trees,
Recycle what I can.
I’m an Earth Day helper
Each and every day.
I take care of Mother Earth
In oh, so many ways.
EARTH DAY by Jane Yolen
I am the Earth
And the Earth is me.
Each blade of grass,
Each honey tree,
Each bit of mud,
Each bit of mud,
And stick and stone
Is blood and muscle,

Skin and bone.
And just as I
Need every bit
Of me to make
My body fit,
So Earth needs
Grass and stone and tree
And things that grow here
Naturally.
That’s why we
Celebrate this day
That’s why across
The world we say:
As long as life,
As dear, as free,
I am the Earth
And the Earth is me.

“Turn off the
lights & switch
on education
about global
warming”

OUR EARTH

The Earth is ours to enjoy
For every little girl and boy.
But we must always be aware.
That all its beauty we must share
With all the children yet to come,
Who want to laugh and play and run
Around the trees and in the fields.
So we must keep our planet free
From messy trash and debris
With air that's clean and fresh and clear
For all to breathe from year to year.
We must never ever abuse
Our sweet Earth that's ours to use.
EVERYDAY IS EARTH DAY
Everyday is Earth Day,
If it's cold or wet or hot
Pitch in to save the planet

THIS OLD EARTH

(to the tune of "This Old Man")
This old earth
Needs our help
To stay fresh and clean and green
With a pick it up; pitch it in; and throw it in
the can--
This old earth needs a helping hand!

IN TUNE WITH MOTHER NATURE

If you listen for the songbirds
As they greet the summer sun,
And love the way the wind can make
The trees sing just for fun;
If you like to hear the ocean
As it drums upon the shore,
And imagine all the whales out there,
And hope they'll sing some more;
If you think of all the animals
As players in a band,
Each with a lovely tune to play,
All needed on the land;
And know that as a boy or girl
A woman or a man
You have a vital role to play
In Mother Nature's plan;
If you honor every living thing
As a part of nature's treasure
You're in tune with Mother Nature
So let's all sing her song together.

IF A TREE COULD TALK

Rozanne Williams
If a tree could talk, what would it say?
"Don't chop me down, just walk away."
If a river could talk, what would it say?"
"Don't dump in trash, throw it away."
If the air could talk, what would it say?
"The factories must learn to keep smoke away."
If the animals could talk, what would they say?
"Help us to live, we wish to stay."
If the Earth could talk, what would it say?
"Protect me by making everyday Earth day."

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

(to the tune of "The
More We Get Together")
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Recycle... recycle
Reduce. Reuse, Recycle
It's easy to do
Cause your trash
And my trash
Make up way
Too much trash
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Its easy to do!

HOORAY FOR EARTH DAY!

Susan La Bella
That all its beauty we must share
With all the children yet to come,
Who want to laugh and play and run
Around the trees and in the fields.
So we must keep our planet free
From messy trash and debris
With air that's clean and fresh and clear
For all to breathe from year to year.
We must never ever abuse
Our sweet Earth that's ours to use.

EVERYDAY IS EARTH DAY

Everyday is Earth Day,
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Pitch in to save the planet
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