

TOP TEN NO-COST SCHOOL ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Primarily focused on energy-awareness and energy-use planning, the strategies below describe simple ways energy can be saved without incurring additional operating costs or investments. The ten tips are listed along with the percentage of energy use they affect. For example, turning off unused lights affects electricity use, which for lighting averages 26 percent. These actions involve raising awareness, creating, and following-up with an energy plan.

ACTION		CURRENT	ACTION		CURRENT
1	shading devices	34% gas	6	sleep mode on	26% elec.
2	close openings		7	off for holidays	
3	special-use		8	turn off lights	26% elec.
4	clear vented areas		9	use natural daylight	
5	HVAC settings			reduce water-heater temp on wknds	8% gas 2%

1. SHADING DEVICES

Use shading devices to help control heat loss and gain through building windows. Open blinds at the beginning of the school day to allow the sun to help heat the building. After the school day is over, close blinds to avoid heat loss through the windows.

<https://bit.ly/2lHxID>

2. CLOSE OPENINGS

Make sure that all windows and doors remain closed when the HVAC system is running. By allowing conditioned air to escape the building, energy and money are being lost. For some systems, this can also negatively impact the temperature of other spaces.

<https://bit.ly/2lkglKF>

3. SPECIAL USE ROOMS

Some spaces of school buildings are only used during specific hours of the day; such as the cafeteria, auditorium and gymnasium. Ensure that your HVAC system is programmed around this schedule so that it is not heating or cooling an unused space.

<https://bit.ly/2Gpp4dM>

4. CLEAR VENTED AREAS

Ensure that all airflow is left unblocked. Keep bulky furniture as well as personal items away from the vents so that spaces can be properly heated or cooled.

<https://bit.ly/2Gpp4dM>

5. HVAC SETTINGS

Have building maintenance personnel adjust HVAC temperature settings outside of regular school hours to save energy on space heating and cooling. The high percentage of energy used for heating and cooling can be greatly impacted by making this small change.

<https://bit.ly/2uAYl7b>

**6. SLEEP
MODE ON**

Make sure that computers are set to enter sleep mode when not in use. Screens should be set to power down after 10 minutes of use, and another goal is to maximize power down time especially during evenings and weekends.

<https://bit.ly/2ljSZVc>

**7. OFF FOR
THE HOLIDAYS**

Make sure that all electronic devices are turned off and unplugged over the weekends and holidays so that unused energy isn't being wasted. Many electronics still use energy when they are turned off – this energy use is called a vampire load.

<https://bit.ly/2Gpp4dM>

**8. TURN OFF
THE LIGHTS**

This may seem simple, but for every 1,000 kWh of unused electricity you save nearly \$85 on your electricity bill. Lighting accounts for an average 26% of a schools electricity use, so by turning off unused or unnecessary lights you can save large amounts of energy.

<https://bit.ly/2uAYl7b>

**9. USE NATURAL
DAYLIGHT**

Utilize natural day-lighting when and where it is sufficient for the activity. Not only will you save energy on lighting, but you can also help to improve student performance. Optimal light levels for classrooms vary based on activity, and can be found on page 7 here:

<https://bit.ly/2H5GDkt>

**10. REDUCE
WATER-
HEATER WATER
TEMPERATURE**

Heating water requires a tremendous amount of energy. If possible, turning down the water heater temperature over the weekend can lead to savings.

<https://ngrid.com/2lgoaAT>