

Electrifying Minnesota

A traveling exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and The Bakken Museum.

Energy Conservation Game Save Energy—Save the World

Overview

Engage your students in a board game that will help them learn how to make thoughtful choices, use less energy, and have a positive impact on the environment.

Fifteen minutes

Equipment

- 1 game board and spinner pie board per group
- 1 pencil and paperclip (spinner) per group
- 1 game piece per student (bead, button, eraser, etc.)

Divide the class into small groups. Have the students in each group cut out and tape the game board together and prepare the spinner. Play as many rounds as time permits.

Extensions

- Have the students visit the websites in the Resources section to learn more energy saving tips.
- Have the students write or present at least five more energy saving tips.
- Recycling has a huge impact per lbs of CO₂ saved each year—have the students develop a school wide recycling program/campaign.

Teacher Background Information

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CONSERVE ENERGY?

The majority of the electricity we use every day comes from power plants that burn fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are resources like coal and petroleum that we will eventually run out of. There are no new reserves of these ancient fuels being produced. The longer we conserve what we have the more time we have to develop alternate sources of energy.

Fossil fuels have an additional problem; they are a leading cause of pollution. The more we use these fuels the more we pollute our earth have smog, acid rain, and contribute to global warning. If we use these fuels less, we can limit our negative impact on the environment.

The scientific community is working hard to make renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind, or hydro power) more efficient and effective. What we can do in the meantime is learn to

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conserve. We can learn how to make thoughtful choices that will help us use less energy.

Resources

MN Energy Challenge has lots of ways you can conserve energy. Commit to certain actions and see how much carbon you can save.

www.mnenergychallenge.org

The **Environmental Protection Agency** has an extensive website that teaches kids all about climate change and conserving energy through games, fun links, and activities.

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/kids/index.html>

The **U.S. Energy Information Administration**'s website for kids has information about many forms of energy and timelines explaining the history of human use of each type of energy.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/kids/index.cfm>

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