



Energy Project Action Ideas

Here are just a few ideas to help get you started. You can check out what other PLT GreenSchools are doing by watching PLT's short video [GreenSchools in Action: Energy](#) (available on PLT's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ProjectLearningTree>) and by reading stories posted at <https://www.plt.org/project-learning-tree-greenschools-stories>.

- Form a student energy patrol to educate others about how students can save energy at school and at home.
- Plant trees at appropriate places around your school to reduce heating and cooling costs.
- Make posters to inform others about energy-saving practices, such as turning off lights and unplugging appliances that are not in use.
- Adjust lighting in classrooms to take advantage of natural lighting.
- Insulate windows to prevent drafts and save energy.
- Use power strips to minimize the phantom energy load loss or unplug appliances that are not in use.
- Educate others about the importance of checking classroom air vents to make sure that the airflow around heating and cooling vents is kept clear.
- Adjust the heating or air conditioning thermostat to reduce energy use.
- Encourage the school to use fluorescent or LED lights if this change has not been implemented.
- Encourage the school to install vending machine misers to save energy.
- Install motion sensors in lower-use areas such as bathrooms and locker rooms to ensure that lights are only on when the room is occupied.
- Delamp (or reduce the number of light bulbs) in areas where the quantity of light exceeds recommendations.
- Ensure that HVAC filters are inspected every month and replaced or cleaned as needed, especially during peak heating or cooling months.
- In summer, set thermostats between 74° and 78°F when the building is occupied. At the end of the day or beginning of a holiday or weekend, set thermostats to 78°–80°F, but NEVER TURN THEM OFF. During winter, set thermostats between 68° and 72°F. Keep temperatures appropriate if there are plants and/or animals in classrooms.
- Keep windows and doors closed to help conserve energy (in the form of heat or cool air) in the classroom. When there is little difference between the outside and inside temperatures, open windows and doors will not have much effect on energy consumption.

