

Let's Play Watt Watchers Bingo!

For this activity, the students will place a token on the square that corresponds with the energy saving habits and features of their household. The first student to get 5 across (horizontally, vertically, or diagonal) wins!

Are there any rugs or carpets on your floor? These will help keep the house warm in the winter.	When your parents cook, are they keeping a secure lid on the top of the pot?	Ask your parents what kind of thermostat they have. Is it a programmable thermostat?	Is the fan on your AC set to automatic?	On very sunny days, are all the drapes in rooms that are not being used closed to keep the sun out?
Does your family use a space heater?	Do your parents set the thermostat to 4 degrees higher when nobody will be home for a couple hours?	Does your home have an energy efficient water heater?	During the summer days, do your parents cook outside often?	On especially moderate days, does your family open the windows and turn off the air conditioning?
Do your parents hang the laundry outside in the summer to dry?	Does the house have solar shading on the windows?		Have your parents show you their lawn mowing equipment. Is it electric?	Is your freezer inside and <i>not</i> in the garage?
Is the Heat Dry setting on your dishwasher off?	Do you and your family members air dry your hair?	Check out the setting on your washing machine. Is the water set to cold?	When using the laundry dryer, do you and your parents clean out the lint filter after every use?	Are the lights in the rooms that are not being used turned off?
Do you unplug electronics when they're not being used or charging?	Do your outside doors and windows have weatherstripping to prevent air leaks?	Are all the liquids in your refrigerator covered?	Do you wait to run the dishwasher until it is completely full?	Do your parents change the air filters when required?



Save energy and money in your home!

Air Conditioning

- Move the temperature on your air conditioner up a few degrees.
- Use fans. They make a room feel 4° to 6° cooler.
- Keep out the sun and hot air by making sure your windows and doors are closed tightly. Close blinds or drapes on windows that get direct sunlight.
- Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away. Set or program your air conditioning to be 5° warmer when you're gone for more than 4 hours.
- Check and/or replace or clean your air filters every two weeks May through October.

Water Heating

- Long, hot showers not only run up your water bill, but your energy bill as well. Therefore, think conservation for certain daily tasks and not only save water, but save electricity as well.
- Use cold water as much as possible when using a dishwasher or washing machine.
- Wait to wash dishes and clothes until you have a full load.
- Install a low-flow showerhead or faucet aerator to not only save water, but reduce water heating costs.

Refrigerator & Freezer

- Keep your fridge & freezer full, even if you just use bottles of water. A full fridge uses less energy.
- Make sure the seal around the door is airtight & keep the refrigerator coils clean from lint and dust.
- Don't keep a refrigerator in a non-air conditioned space because it will have to work harder to keep cool.

Washer, Dryer & Dishwasher

- Save money by letting the Sun dry your clothes. Use a clothesline or drying rack instead of the dryer. If your clothes dry a little stiff, use your dryer's "fluff" cycle (before 3 p.m. or after 7 p.m.)

- Run your washer, dryer & dishwasher only when they are full loaded.
- Use the air-dry setting on your dishwasher. The heat-dry setting uses more energy & heats up your home, requiring more air conditioning.

Electronics

- All electrical devices use some power and can generate heat when they are turned off but still plugged in. Turn off and unplug lights, appliances and cable boxes when not in use.
- Unplug your phone charger and similar devices when charging is complete.
- Video game consoles can be big energy consumers. Avoid watching DVDs and Blu-ray discs on your game console because it consumes five times the energy of a regular DVD player.

Lighting

- Replace traditional incandescent light bulbs that use a lot of energy to produce light, generate heat and are no longer manufactured.
- Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.
- Using a small light when reading is more efficient than brightly lighting an entire room. Also, keep your light bulbs clean & free from dust.

Home Heating

- During the cold season, set your thermostat between 68 to 70 degrees when you're at home.
- Use a programmable thermostat.
- Reduce air leaks and prevent unnecessary air infiltration around the house. Add caulk around window frames and weather-stripping around door frames.
- Replace old windows with ENERGY STAR® windows. This may cut your energy bill as much as 15%.

Thanks to CPS Energy for providing these tips!

Scan this code for even more great energy-saving tips from Lil' Tex and Ann!

