

HI THERE, I'M THE  
GREEN HOME ENERGY  
VAMPIRE. TEACH ME



## Energy Vampire Challenge

**Slaying the energy vampire – Why we need your help!**

Irish Homes use at least 25% of the total energy used in Ireland, more than industry which is 22%. We use **fossil fuels** which include coal, oil and gas to meet our energy demands. Energy costs are getting more expensive and a link has been made between burning fossil fuels and climate change.

**Ireland imports 88-90% of the country's energy needs in fossil fuels at a cost of over €6 billion each year. At the same time Ireland has the potential to export €6 billion of renewable energy to Europe and**

So how can we reduce our energy consumption I hear you ask.....? By completing the Energy Vampire challenge as outlined below, we will teach you lots of great tips and new ways of saving energy and money in your home.

### The Challenge

Week 1: Renewable Ireland

Week 2: Gather the family together to track down the energy vampires!

Week 3: No Cost & Low Cost Solutions

Week 4: Setting a Goal, Learning about Lights

Week 5: Have we earned an Energy Star? Let's Revise!

**We want you to enjoy working on the 'Energy' theme so we have created online resources to help you complete the challenge. For more on the challenge please go to [www.greenhome.ie/kids/kids\\_energy](http://www.greenhome.ie/kids/kids_energy)**

**Pupil's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_



## WEEK 1: RENEWABLE IRELAND

We know Ireland has one of the highest energy dependency rates in Europe but what does this mean?? To learn more about *energy dependency* and *renewable energy* and their implications, follow the link on the previous page. With the knowledge gained from the website you will be well prepared for the first challenge!

**Challenge** - Look at the back of your electricity bill to identify the sources of electricity production that were used to create your electricity?

Are they mainly renewable or non-renewable? \_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK 2: VAMPIRE HUNT & FAMILY TIME

Go to our website to learn more about Energy Vampires and ways to slay them. Once you are familiar with what energy vampires are, and our slaying tips, get ready to carry out your own vampire hunt. Follow the vampire hunt instructions on our website and then list the energy vampires you find during your hunt!



### Family Time

Pick one evening to turn off the TV, computer and play station. Choose a family activity you can all enjoy (charades, art project, puzzles, monopoly, twister, a trip to the park, outdoor picnic or anything you can think of!).



In your homework copy book write about the activity you choose and whether it was enjoyable or not. Also, write about other tips you can think of to promote more family time and less energy use.

## WEEK 3: NO COST & LOW COST ENERGY SOLUTIONS

A lot of energy can be saved in the home without having to spend any money. For example, turning off lights in unused rooms and only drying clothes naturally or outdoors when possible can all help to save money and energy. Warm up wisely at home and



see our website for more tips 😊. After taking a look at our website can you list what no cost tips you will use and ones that you already use?



Families can make further savings by investing small amounts on items like draught excluders, lagging jackets and attic insulation. Our website contains more interesting facts about low cost solutions. Complete the 3 activities listed on the website and discover some new low cost tips.

#### **WEEK 4: SETTING A GOAL and LEARNING ABOUT LIGHTS**



Revisit the tips from week 4 in order to identify low cost priority areas in your home. Based on those tips which areas of your home could you improve? List the areas in your home that require improvement:

Choose one problem from your list you would like to fix and **make it a goal!**

#### Learning About Lights

CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Lamps) last up to ten times longer than regular bulbs and use 80% less electricity. For more interesting facts on low energy light bulbs and how you can save money take a look at our website [www. greenhome.ie/kids/kids\\_energy](http://www.greenhome.ie/kids/kids_energy)



#### Trees and their Superpowers!

Did you know that trees play an important role in protecting the environment by improving air quality, conserving water, storing carbon and providing a home to different types of wildlife? Trees store excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere which can help to prevent global warming. In exchange for this carbon trees give out oxygen that helps us breathe. The Amazon rainforest provides more than 20% of the earth's oxygen. It is also known as the "lungs of the earth".

## **WEEK 5: HAVE WE EARNED AN ENERGY STAR? LET'S REVISE!**

It's now time to reflect on all your hard work and to see how much you've learned about energy.

1. List 3 no cost tips you have made part of your weekly routine

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2. Have you and your family had more energy free family time?

Yes  No

3. What activities have you done together?

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4. What low cost tip are your family working towards?

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5. Have you made any progress in achieving this goal?

Yes  No

6. Did you visit a recommended website and learn about renewable energy? Yes  No

7. What would be your number 1 tip you would give to another family to reduce energy use in the home?

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8. Will your family continue to reduce energy?

Yes  No



**You have completed the Energy Vampire Challenge!!!**

