

ENERGY

Q: CAN RESPONSIBLE ENERGY CONSUMPTION IMPACT OUR FINANCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To understand that conserving energy can both help the environment and save money

To understand that there are small everyday changes that we can make to save money

MATERIALS

You could introduce the topic by using questions 17-20 from the *Responsible Consumerism* quiz.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION PLANNING FRAMEWORK LINKS

I can compare the overall cost and benefits of a range of goods and services by shopping around and using mental calculations, IT tools and comparison websites (11-14 years)

I can describe how I can exercise both my rights and responsibilities as a consumer of goods and services (14-16 years)

ACTIVITY

Begin the activity by asking the young people to work in groups and identify as many reasons as they can for why we need to use less energy. Share answers as a class. Explain that we can make small everyday changes to conserve energy. Introduce the term 'vampire devices' and explain the following:

Vampire devices drain 135,000 hours of electricity per household per year in the UK costing each family an average of £86! An average of 40-50 vampires can be found in most households!

Vampire devices are items and appliances that appear to be switched off but are still consuming energy. This may be because they're plugged in, have a battery or an LED status light, or they draw some other kind of charge.

- What can people do to stop vampires draining their energy? Ask the students to think of some possible ways to stop these in their home.
- Students could use this online calculator to work out a rough estimate of the cost of this wasted energy in their home. Alternatively, they could work in groups and think about an average household, and then work out the amount that an average household would spend on wasted energy.

www.confused.com/gas-electricity/guides/standby-energy-vampire-device

Clues that an appliance is a vampire:

- The appliance is still warm – e.g. phone charger is still plugged in but not charging a phone.
- There's a small standby light – e.g. the red light on your TV, even when the screen is black; the little light on your console even though you're not playing with it.

These could include:

televisions, stereos, DVD/Blu Ray players, satellite/cable boxes, smart speakers, gaming consoles, automatic garage doors, modems, wireless phones, answering machines, digital clocks (including those on microwaves etc.), mobile phone chargers, laptops & tablets.

CHALLENGE PORTFOLIO ENTRY OPTION

Task the young people with creating a campaign material, e.g. a poster, leaflet or article, to raise awareness of the actions we can all take to reduce our energy waste in the home. Once they've created their campaign material, remind them to complete their *Challenge Summary Sheet* too.