

This is a winning entry of the NHSaves Education Challenge.* NHSaves is a collaboration of New Hampshire's electric and natural gas utilities working together to provide NH customers with information, incentives and support designed to save energy, reduce costs and protect our environment statewide. Partners are Eversource, Liberty Utilities, New Hampshire Electric Co-Op, and Unitil. For more information, go to www.nhsaves.com.

*The opinions expressed in this entry do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of NHSaves or its partners.

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Prompt 2: How can people use less electricity and why would that be beneficial to the environment?

Saving Electricity

Have you ever wondered about saving electricity? Saving electricity is important because it will help defeat climate change and it will help you save money.

Making water hot consumes electricity. Heating water accounts for about 30 percent of the energy used by the average household. You can prevent using so much hot water by taking shorter showers. "The average showerhead uses 10 liters of water per minute," according to the video "Saving Energy Around The Home-Energy Efficiency Tips" by Reduction Revolution. To help keep showers short, you can use a shower timer. Using a low-flow showerhead can also help reduce electricity usage. Washing your clothes with cold water instead of hot water can also help reduce electricity usage.

When you clean your dishes in a dishwasher, you should wait to run the dishwasher until the washer is full. It takes the same amount of electricity to wash your dishes whether your dishwasher is full or half full. I learned from the video "Energy Conservation for Kids-Appliances" that the more dishes you put in a load of dishwashing, the less runs you have to take, which means not using as much electricity.

Another way to save energy is to enable features such as screen-savers on your computer. You should turn off appliances that are attached to the wall. Even better, unplugging appliances and gadgets can save even more electricity. When the appliance isn't being used, it may continue to suck out a small amount of electricity. These types of gadgets are called electricity vampires

according to DirectEnergy.com. These include chargers and adaptors as well as some kitchen appliances. Another part of saving electricity is turning off the lights when you don't need them.

Playing outside is a great way to have fun and not use electricity at the same time. You can play ball, go for a run or even just play on a play structure. There are so many different alternatives to watching TV or playing on your tablet.

Most electricity is created by burning fossil fuels. This releases pollution into the air, which traps heat into the atmosphere, leading to climate change. Climate change is altering the Earth in a way that will make it difficult for humans to live. In conclusion, not only does saving electricity save you money, but it also saves the planet.

Citations

1. "Saving Energy Around the Home - Energy Efficiency Tips" by Reduction Revolution © 2016
<http://www.viewpure.com/pY6fAYkscTY?ref=bkmk>
2. "Energy Conservation for Kids - Appliances" by Horizon Utilities © 2008
<http://www.viewpure.com/Jy09DuZ9QD0?ref=bkm>