

Solar Panel

This is a good way of showing children the power of sunlight and how helpful renewable energy resources are to the environment.

Energy makes things work; we use energy in many different ways, like heating our homes, making trains move, lighting-up street lights and keeping our freezers cold.

Coal, oil and gas are used to produce energy. Coal is burnt in power stations to generate electricity, which gives us light and heat, and also powers machines. Oil can be used to make fuels for our cars, and gas is used to cook with and heat our homes.

Oil, coal and gas are known as fossil fuels which were formed millions of years ago. Every day fossil fuels are being taken from the ground, but supplies aren't endless. Once they have been used, they are gone forever. If we keep using as much energy as we do and as much fossil fuels, soon supplies will run out. This supply depends on how much we use or conserve. By using less energy, the oil, coal and gas supply will last longer.

On current consumption there is enough to last;

- Oil = 45 years
- Gas = 72 years
- Coal = 252 years

Driving a car and using electricity isn't wrong, we just need to be smart about how we use it. There are lots of simple things we can do to use less energy.

- Turn off lights when we leave the room.
- Use energy efficient light bulbs.
- Remember to unplug our phone chargers when they aren't in use.
- Wash our dishes in the sink rather than use a dishwasher.
- Turn off TV's completely instead of just on standby.
- Come to school on the bus, a bike or walk.

Wind, sunlight and water can also give us energy, they do not cause pollution when they are turned into electricity and best of all, they never run out.

Challenge the children to design a sign on the energy saving worksheet to put up in the school or to take home to remind other children, teachers or parents about one thing they could do to help save energy.

Provide each child with a copy of the Taking Care of the Earth Every Day sheet. This is for children to complete each day to keep a record of how many good things they can do to help the environment, there is space for the children to add their own ideas of good deeds.