

OKLAHOMA ROCKS! Energy

CONSERVATION

Although understanding energy largely involves learning about the geology and technology behind the energy sources, those in the energy sector also are responsible for being good stewards of these resources – as are consumers. Sources like petroleum, natural gas and coal are finite resources, and the ability to rely solely on renewable sources is very far off.

To understand how to reduce energy usage, you first need to know how much energy you use. Most electric meters at houses have four or five dials. The hands alternate between moving clockwise and counterclockwise, always in the direction that the numbers increase. To read the meter, look at the number that the hand on each dial has just passed, remembering that the direction of the hand changes with every other dial. This meter reads 6650 kilowatt-hours.



The energy that powers your house comes from an electrical grid. Some people live “off grid” by taking significant steps to power their home in a self-sufficient way. Living off grid is not practical for many people. Instead, being energy conscious can make a large impact on the amount of energy you use.

ACTIVITIES:

1. When you go home, read the meter at your house. If you live in an apartment complex, try to find the meter for your building.
2. Challenge your school to conserve more energy. Start by measuring your school’s current energy usage. If an electric meter is not accessible, ask a school board member for help obtaining your school’s energy bills. Log how long the lights and computers are on in the rooms. Brainstorm ways to improve energy efficiency, and then track your school’s progress. For motivation, read about Yukon Public Schools’ efforts here: www.yukonps.com/OurStudents/HelpingHandsProgram/EnergyEducation/tabid/1331/Default.aspx.



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