

Energy Saving Week schools' challenge

Energy Saving Week takes place in Northern Ireland from Monday 27 November to Friday 1 December 2023. Energy Saving Trust, supported by the Housing Executive (Home Energy Conservation Authority) and Power NI, in addition to other partners, will be promoting energy savings and carbon reduction during this week, which has been running successfully for 23 years. To coincide with our campaign and support the theme of the week we are inviting your school pupils to take part in a schools' challenge.

Most of the energy we use creates carbon emissions, which damage the environment. Reducing the amount of energy and water we use will limit the impact on the environment. Wee changes can make big differences. Whether it's turning the tap off when you brush your teeth, turning the lights off when you don't need them, or turning TVs and games consoles off standby when not in use, everyone can make a difference and help protect our planet.

The challenge

Over the course of any week from Monday 20 November to Friday 8 December (Monday to Friday) we are asking schools to count how many energy-saving daily tasks their pupils have been able to complete at home.

You can share this attached [challenge sheet for parents/guardians/carers](#) via email or use your school's online learning platform for completion.

Our aim is to encourage all children who can take part in the challenge to make some simple changes to help save energy at home. We ask that each class counts how many pupils have been able to complete each task on the challenge sheet during the week i.e. how many pupils completed the 'unplug the electrical items' task, how many pupils completed the 'turn the tap off' task, etc, (not the number of occupants living at home). Here is a [worksheet for teachers](#) to help them collate the class results.

This year, Power NI has kindly sponsored the first prize of £1000, to be spent on a sustainability project or initiative to benefit your school. This will be awarded to the school saving the highest amount of CO₂ (pro rata according to the size of the school's headcount).

Please refer to the attached terms and conditions for prize selection criteria. [Energy Saving Week 2023 - Energy Saving Trust.](#)

To enter your school, complete your **school totals** in this [results form](#) and submit it to eswni@est.org.uk by **Friday 15 December**. This is the only document that needs to be sent.

Energy Saving Trust will issue all schools that take part a certificate stating how much CO2 your pupils managed to save throughout your chosen Energy Saving Week. We will also award the Top Prize (£1,000) to the winning school. Energy Saving Week is a great way to get pupils thinking about saving energy in the home and we hope you support our campaign.

Displaying your certificate in your school is also a great way to show pupils how the simple changes they have made can make such a big impact on the environment. We are also using social media to promote Energy Saving Week, so we hope your school will get involved! Your school could tweet (on X) the total savings at the end of the week or include a photo of pupils participating in the tasks.

It would be amazing if you would like to create bite sized videos of pupils undertaking some of the challenges and leading by example!

Please tag us. We'll be standing by to add a comment to show our appreciation of your support. Use **#EnergySavingWeek23** in your social posts. Our Twitter (X) handle is @EnergySvgTrust, you can include @PowerNI and @nihecommunity and here is our [Facebook page](#).

If you need any further information or want to speak to us about this campaign, please contact:

Paula Simpson
Assistant Programme Manager Northern Ireland
Energy Saving Trust
eswni@est.org.uk

Looking for more energy saving advice for schools?

[NI Energy Advice](#) service is managed by the Housing Executive (Home Energy Conservation Authority for Northern Ireland) and funded by the Department for Communities (DfC). It offers independent and impartial energy advice to all domestic householders in Northern Ireland, plus referrals to energy grants and other sources of help. The service incorporates the management of Northern Ireland's Schools Energy Awareness Programme (SEAP). The Programme will continue to deliver its energy message – encouraging awareness of energy use and the environment, addressing topics including 'what is energy?', 'where does our energy come from' and 'energy conservation'.

The SEAP role supports the global (Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful) Eco-schools NI Programme. Eco-schools has a commitment for 100% of Northern Ireland's primary schools to achieve their [Green Flag status](#). This refreshed SEAP Programme, in grant funding the Eco-schools Energy topic, has the potential to deliver education and awareness to all 1,143 Northern Ireland schools and to 320,000+ pupils in both primary and secondary schools at Key stage 2 & 3. Eco-schools has full support from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), all 11 local councils, major corporate and charity sponsors, and the Housing Executive. If you would like more information on the Schools' Energy Programme please contact Gemma Cowles, Programme Manager, gemma.cowles@nihe.gov.uk.

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