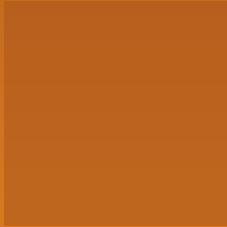
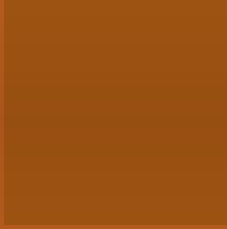
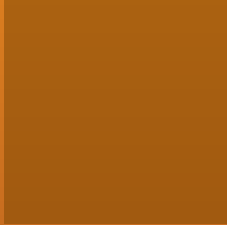


Family Resource Sheet



AMERICAN COAL FOUNDATION

Dear Families,

Welcome to the world behind your light switch.

The American Coal Foundation (www.teachcoal.org) has created **“The United States of Energy”** to teach children about energy and electricity in the United States.

The activities in the program encourage students to find out about the different sources of energy, discover what energy powers their state, and learn how coal is turned into electricity.

We hope you and your children enjoy this interactive, educational introduction to energy and electricity.

Household Energy-Saving Tips

We can all do more to save energy in the home. Here are some easy tips:

- Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.
- Buy energy-efficient appliances.
- Use compact fluorescent lightbulbs.
- Install well-sealed, energy-efficient windows.
- Add insulation and air sealing where possible.
- Plant trees to shade your house in key areas.



Turn over for “The Energy Challenge,” a fun Family Activity.

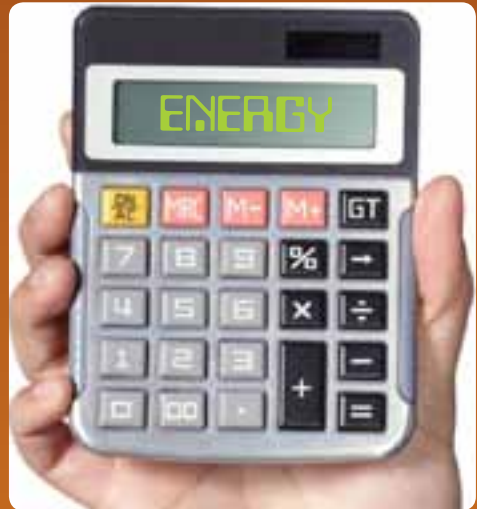
The Energy Challenge



We all know that it's good to turn off the lights and appliances when they're not needed, but now we can illustrate the importance of conservation! Using less energy saves money.

As a family, visit the Energy Cost Calculator at www.csgnetwork.com/elecenergycalcs.html.

- 1 Fill in the blanks while discussing your normal household behavior. You can calculate by the hour, the day, or even the month.
- 2 Then hit "Calculate."
- 3 See how your everyday activities translate into money spent on electricity.



THE ENERGY CHALLENGE

Take turns using the online calculator to see how low each family member can reduce his or her costs. Perhaps someone can go without using the television or a few lightbulbs for a while. Perhaps someone else can forego using the hair dryer or leaving the laptop on. The family member with the lowest electricity usage wins the challenge.

Once you've crowned a champion, sit down and make a list of the things you can do as a family to reduce your energy use. You might arrange the list by room of the house—"Bathroom: shorter showers, turn off lights." Or you might arrange the list by family member—"Thomas: turn off TV before falling asleep, close refrigerator door!" Keep the final list in a visible spot, like on that closed fridge!



Were the costs higher or lower than you expected? The watts and dollars really add up, don't they?



What's powering the cost of electricity in your state?

Visit www.eia.doe.gov/electricity/epm/table5_6_b.html to find your state's cost for electricity (look at the "All Sectors" column to the right). Then compare that cost with your state's top resource for producing electricity found on "The United States of Energy" map. Which states at www.eia.doe.gov/electricity/epm/table5_6_b.html have the lowest costs for electricity? What is the top resource for producing electricity for those states as found on the map?