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Energy Education

10 Reasons Why Teaching about Energy is Essential

1. Energy use affects us all-our pocketbooks, our environment, and even our national security. Many Americans don't realize that we're now importing more oil than we did during the oil crisis of the late 1970s. And the use of fossil fuels for energy contributes significantly to air pollution.
2. Educating the public, including students, about the economic and environmental costs of energy use is one of the best ways to help curb energy waste.
3. It's important for students to learn about their energy choices along with the advantages and disadvantages of each choice. For example, fossil fuels are convenient and readily available, but their supplies are finite and their use is environmentally damaging. Meanwhile, renewable energy sources are inexhaustible with many environmental benefits, but they aren't necessarily as convenient, readily available, nor able to meet all our nation's energy needs.
4. Chances are that most students have never seen a solar car or a modern, working wind machine. The good news is that interest in the development of renewable energy sources is spreading rapidly once again. Today, as a result of the 2000 California energy crisis and growing concern over global warming, national security and the health effects of poor air quality, renewable energy is gaining the attention of the general public as well as our state and national governments.
5. Helping students understand all aspects of a particular energy source-its availability, benefits, and monetary, environmental, and social costs-will help them make informed decisions about energy at home and at work.
6. Students who can make energy smart decisions will be more conscientious about wasting energy in their lifetimes. For example, the amount of energy wasted through poorly insulated windows is equivalent to the oil pumped through the Alaskan pipeline each year. They can learn that preventing energy loss is often very simple, can save money, and in many cases, can benefit the environment by reducing pollution and conserving our natural resources.
7. Implementing energy efficient lesson plans at an early stage of a child development will provide long term benefits such a increase awareness and lower energy usage over time.
8. Studying energy is an excellent way to introduce students to science concepts and processes included in the National Science Education Standards.
9. Enables teachers to learn about the energy efficient innovations and integrate news about new emerging technologies into their curriculum.
10. The study of the efficient use of energy has not yet received the recognition that it deserves in school science. New approaches, that are readily digestible by students is needed to ensure they are kept interested and fully engaged to learn more about energy efficiency solutions.

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