

The Home Energy Savings Game

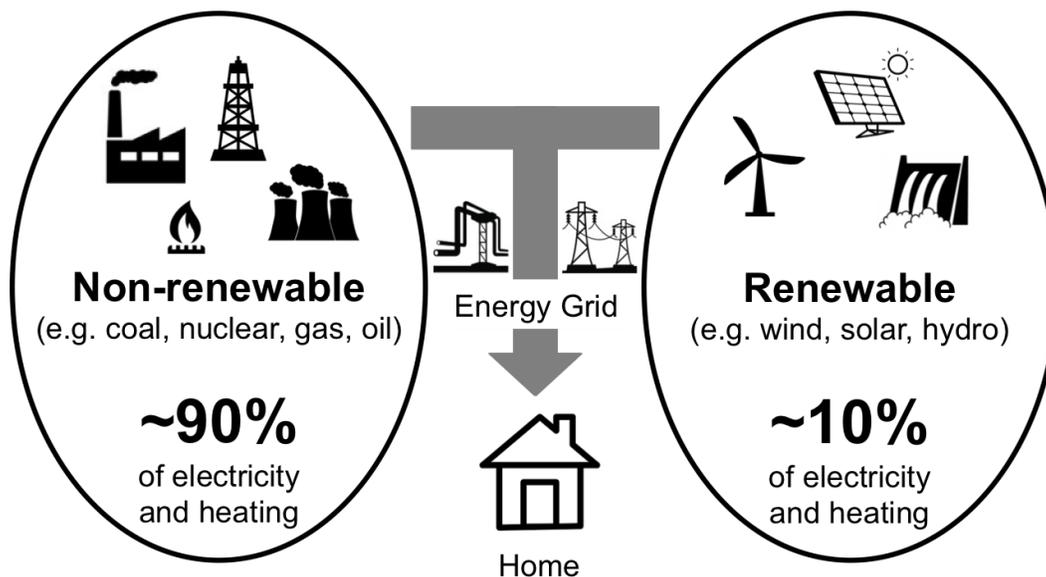
Did you know saving energy at home can help the environment and save money? The less energy we use to heat, cool, and light our homes, the less greenhouse gases go into the air to make our energy, and the less we pay for our energy bills. And, the less energy we use now, the more we have to use later - this makes our community more sustainable.

So how can you save energy at home? The Home Energy Savings Game will show you how! Here's what you can do...

1. Complete [The Home Energy Savings Game](#) at home with an adult's help
2. Follow the energy saving tips you find in the Game
3. Find even more ways to save energy at the [Village of Deerfield's Sustainability Website](#)
4. Win prizes for your class by having the most kids complete the Game!

Where Does Energy Come From?

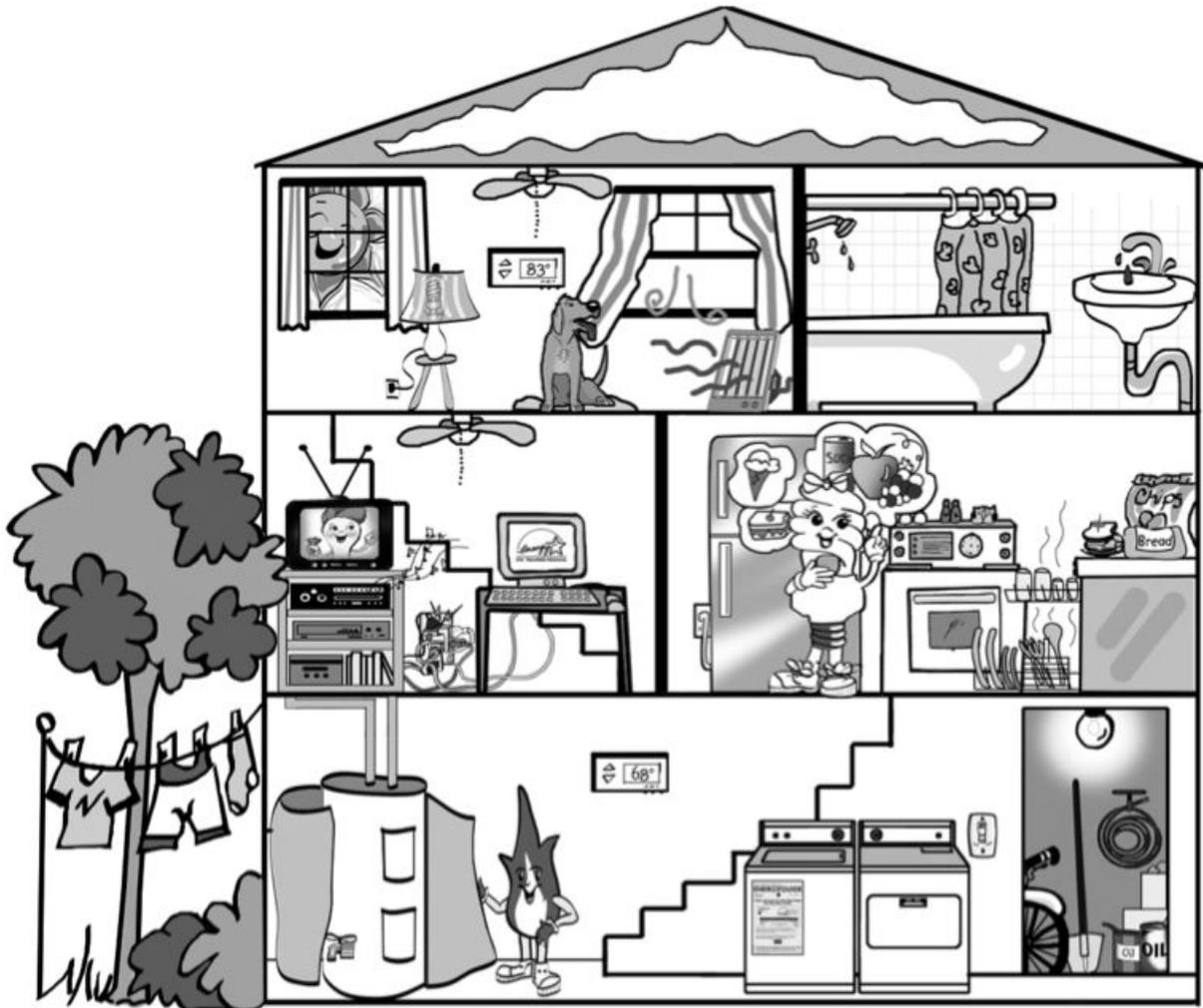
Before you explore how you use energy at home and ways to save energy, it's helpful to understand where energy comes from and how it affects the environment. Take a look at the most common types of energy we use in our homes: electricity, natural gas, and heating oil.



As you can see, all of these energy sources can send a lot of pollution and greenhouse gases into the air, and change the landscape. So it's important for us - for you - to find ways to use less energy and help the environment.

How Do We Use Energy?

Now that you know where energy comes from, let's look at ways we use - and waste - energy. Look at the picture below. Can you find all the ways energy is being used wisely in this home? Can you find the ways that energy is being wasted?



Have you found everything in the picture? Check yourself against this list:

- Let the sunshine in! During the day when it is brighter outside, open the curtains and use the sunlight instead of turning on the lights. (Leaving two lights on for 250 days a year while you are at school could cost \$30-\$40.)
- Turn off the dishwasher right before the drying cycle and let the dishes air dry.
- Don't leave the refrigerator door open. Decide what you want to eat before you open the door.
- Instead of cooking, have a sandwich night once a week. Not cooking on the stove or in the oven saves gas and electricity.
- Set your thermostats at 65o to 68o F in the winter months. The rule of thumb says that you could save 3% of your bill for every degree you turn back your thermostat.
- Install hot water tank covers and lower water temperature to 120o F.
- Plant trees and shrubs. Trees that lose their leaves are best to block the sun in the summer and when the leaves fall, they let the sun shine through in the winter helping to warm your house.
- Replace conventional light bulbs with the compact fluorescent or LED light bulbs.
- When you have a sunny day, hang clothes outside instead of using the dryer.
- Turn lights off as you leave the room.
- Use energy saving appliances.
- Don't leave windows or outside doors open when heat or air conditioning is on.
- Turn lights off ceiling fans when you leave the room.
- Install extra attic insulation.



How Many Ways Can You Save Energy?

Here comes the fun part! Let's find out how many ways you're saving energy now, and how many ways you can start saving even more!

We've built a list of ways to save energy for you. Complete [The Home Energy Savings Game](#) with an adult's help to see all the ways you're saving energy now, and all the ways you can start saving energy.

What To Do Now

First, congratulations on finding all those ways you're saving energy now, and all the ways you can start saving energy! Every little bit helps!

Here's what you can do to start saving even more energy:

1. Follow the energy saving tips you find in [The Home Energy Savings Game](#)
2. Find more ways to save energy at the [Village of Deerfield's Sustainability Website](#)
3. See if your class won a prize!

Credits

- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, [2013 energy statistics](#)
- Kidz Zone Home Water & Energy Audit, 2007, EnWin Utilities Ltd.
- Energy Efficiency: Let's Save Energy, 2008, APOGEETM Interactive, Inc.
- Inspiring Change, Climate Change North
- [Florida Palm Beach K-12](#)

