Conducting the Energy Conservation Pathway
BEFORE AND AFTER THE AUDIT, GRADES 3-5

BEFORE

BE PREPARED

- Read through this document, the baseline audit and the post-action audit.
- Invite community experts to participate.
- Gather science tools (if applicable) and print materials.
- Conduct mini-lessons (if needed) to strengthen concept foundation.

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

1. Energy comes in many forms, some forms are renewable and some are nonrenewable.
2. Living things depend on the Earth’s resources to live. Human activity affect Earth’s systems.
3. People can use a variety of tools including data collection and analysis to make decisions about their energy use.
4. A sustainable future depends on personal choices and actions, the use of renewable energies and the conservation of nonrenewable resources.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

- Our current reliance on fossil fuels is unsustainable and harmful to the planet and to the communities who rely upon energy to sustain their way of life.
- Cultural diversity is a source for learning sustainable practices.
- Energy poverty is a lack of access to modern energy services. Access to energy is fundamental to improving quality of life and is a key imperative for economic development. In the developing world, energy poverty is still rife. Nearly 1.6 billion people still have no access to electricity.
- Intercultural dialogue should be a guiding principle in developing solutions, raising awareness and promoting action.
- Create an inclusive, safe place for Eco-Action Team members and others within and outside of the school community to participate.

Questions? eco-schoolsusa@nwf.org
CONDUCTING AN ENERGY AUDIT

Grades 3-5

Interdisciplinary Connections

- **Language Arts** – Research the different types of energy used around the country and create a digital story. Students can hone their research, reading and digital tech skills to help them effectively communicate via the appropriate digital platforms for the target audience.

- **Science** – Identify the difference between renewable and nonrenewable sources of energy, explain their origin stories and investigate your state's energy resources.

- **Technology** – Investigate current advances in technology that allow renewable energy to be stored and used.

- **Math** – Calculate the cost of the total kWh used at school for one day.

In 2016, seventeen Global Goals for Sustainable Development were adopted by world leaders at a United Nations Summit. These goals universally apply to all countries, therefore Eco-Schools USA is committed to doing our part. Over the next fifteen years, efforts will be made by governments, institutions and citizens all across the globe to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring nobody is left behind.

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Learn more at [globalgoals.org](http://globalgoals.org)
GATHER THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS

- Student worksheet(s)
- School map(s) – inside and outside
- Audit form
- Lumen meter (optional)
- Clip boards

DASHBOARD METRIC

On average, by how many kWh has your school's electricity decreased since collecting your baseline data?

PROCEDURE

1. Before the audit, contact local experts who are willing to assist. These individuals can provide more in depth understanding and can help direct the team when questions and/or concerns arise.
2. Read through the audit. As an Eco-Action Team determine, based on the size of your school and the number of appliances/devices, how much time will be needed to complete the baseline or post-action audit.
3. Highlight the locations on the school maps where teams will collect data.
4. Conduct the baseline audit and make plans to conduct the post-action audit.
5. Analyze the results and develop an action plan.
6. Frequently communicate results and plans with the school and community.

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### AFTER

1. **NEXT STEP: DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN**

   Move into Step 3 of the Seven Step Framework by using the audit results to develop an action plan.

   Identify community leaders, experts, advocacy organizations who can assist students with solution implementation and advise the Eco-Action Team how to address issues of social justice.

2. **UPDATE YOUR DASHBOARD**

   Login to the school's dashboard and complete the following tasks.
   
   - Upload your audit results and your action plan.
   - Add any related photos or videos.
   - After completing the post-action audit and moving through the Seven Step Framework apply for an award.

3. **RANGER RICK, A MENTOR FOR TODAY'S KIDS**

   Ranger Rick, the National Wildlife Federation's friendly raccoon, helps children of all ages discover and connect with nature so they become good stewards of the environment.

   - Ranger Rick for ages 7-12, classroom subscriptions
   - Ranger Rick Photo Contest
   - Ranger Rick Educator Guide
   - Ranger Rick Zoobooks

4. **NEXT PATHWAY**

   **Water Pathway**
   
   Fresh, clean water is one of the basic necessities of life. Students can investigate the interdependent relationships between water use, water quality, wildlife biodiversity, and community health.

   **Healthy Schools Pathway – Addressing Water and Soil Contaminants and IAQ**
   
   Providing students and staff with a healthy learning and working environment is an important component of every sustainable school. Learn more about conditions that can impact the learning environment and how to inform the community and advocate for change.

5. **CONNECT TO THE GLOBE PROGRAM**

   The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program is an international science and education program that provides students and the public worldwide with the opportunity to participate in data collection, the scientific process, and contribute meaningfully to our understanding of the Earth system and global environment.

   **Atmosphere**
   
   clouds | precipitation | surface temperature

   **Biosphere**
   
   biometry | land cover classification

   **Hydrosphere**
   
   freshwater macroinvertebrates | water temperature | water pH

   **Pedosphere**
   
   infiltration | fertility | pH | temperature

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