



See the light. Switch off.

8.30pm Saturday 27 March 2010 www.earthhour.org.nz



How schools can support Earth Hour 2010

At **8:30pm on Saturday, March 27** towns and cities across the world will turn off their lights for one hour sending a powerful global message that by acting together, we can show we care about climate change. Last year hundreds of millions of people – including over half of New Zealand - took part!

There are great in-class resources for teachers and students in the Earth Hour 2010 Education Pack – download it here: www.earthhour.org.nz. Here are some other ways your school can take part in Earth Hour.

- 1.** On Friday 26th March 2010 set a time during the school day to switch off all non-essential powered appliances. e.g. lights, computers and music players. Plan a social or sports activity, or a special lesson about climate change using resources in the Education Pack
- 2.** Put an item in the school newsletter reminding families about Earth Hour.
- 3.** Ask the school caretaker to switch off all non-essential lights at on Saturday March 27 from 8.30 – 9.30pm.
- 4.** Involve children in making their own Earth Hour flyer to take home. A template can be downloaded from www.earthhour.org.nz

Here's what else kids can do for Earth Hour at school & at home...

The following pages give a few more ideas as to how children can take action on climate change at home and at school.

1. Secret power suckers

Can you see little red lights on your appliances around the house or classroom – even when they're off? Turn the lights off in your living room and see how many little green or red lights you can see.

That's call being 'on-standby' and it uses a surprisingly large amount of power. Ask your parents or teacher if you can turn them off at the wall. That goes for the heated towel rail, and things like mobile phone chargers – if the wall switch is on, they'll be secretly sucking power!

2. See a light on? - well switch it off!

Leaving lights on when no-one is in the room wastes energy.

How often can you switch off a light when it doesn't have to be on? Make up a chart and have a competition with your family or friends. Each time you turn off a light put a tick next to your name. Switch off and win!

But don't go crazy! – only switch off lights in rooms no-one is using for a while

3. The Kilometre Café

Buying food that's grown or made close to home is better. It means less pollution, less packaging, less fuel, and the money you spend on local produce helps New Zealand farmers and growers. The food can also be fresher and better for you.

Invite your friends around to your home café – or make a special lunch day at school. How many items can you share that have not had to travel a long way to be cooked and served? Do you or your friends grow any fruit or vegetables at home?

4. Screw in a new lightbulb

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) can last 6 times longer than regular bulbs and use 80% less electricity.

Check your house and your school. Which lights do you need to use the most? Are they CFLs? If not, talk to your parents or teachers. Ask if the lights that you use the most can be changed to CFL ones.

By changing just one light bulb you can reduce electricity use and your power bill.

5. Are you car-less about pollution?

Make a list of all the car trips your family takes in a week. At the end of the week, look at the list. Think about the types of car trips that you and your family took.

- How many trips could your family have done together?
- How many trips could have been shared with friends to and from school, and for after school activities?
- How many trips could have been done without a car?
- Could you have walked? Ridden a bike? Used public transport?

Try using the car a bit less the next week and see if you can find one trip every week you don't need the car for at all!

And remember!...

Turn out the lights at 8:30pm Saturday 27 March



Ask your family and friends to join you when you turn out all the lights in the house (keep a torch handy!). Play games or talk by candlelight for an hour – or longer! See if there is a free community event in your area – go to: www.earthhour.org.nz

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