

Energy Conservation Toss Game

Instructions

Visitors can play this game by tossing the foam Earth balls through the opening in the stand. For each ball they toss, they must listen to one fact related to energy efficiency, chosen from the list below. You could also have participants pick a number from 1-20, and then read them that fact.

Prizes can be given for getting a majority of the tosses into the opening. If your municipality chooses to do a raffle, the participant can get a free or bonus entry.

Facts

1. Replace your traditional incandescent bulbs with ENERGY STAR certified LED light bulbs to reduce energy usage by up to 90%.
2. LED light bulbs last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.
3. Only about 10% of the energy consumed by incandescent lights is used to create light. The remaining 90% is given off as heat.
4. 9-15% of the energy used by an average household is consumed by the lighting, but using LED bulbs and turning out the lights can help lower energy consumption.
5. Excess ice buildup in your freezer can cause increased power usage. Defrost your refrigerator and freezer before buildup reaches ¼ inch thick to keep them running efficiently.
6. Exhaust fans are not designed for continuous usage and should be turned off within 20 minutes of use to decrease their energy consumption.
7. Drying your clothes in a dryer is responsible for 6% of the total energy use in a home. Using a drying rack, hanging your clothes outside in the summer, or selecting the lowest heat setting can significantly reduce your energy consumption.
8. If you cannot air dry your clothes, using the lowest heat setting will use less energy and can prevent the over-drying of clothes, even if the cycle is longer.
9. It is estimated that 75% of the energy used by electronics is consumed when they are turned off.
10. 90% of homes in the U.S. are under-insulated and require higher amounts of energy to heat and cool. You can improve your energy efficiency, and comfort, by sealing air leaks and adding insulation. Both are cost-effective and your utility company may offer rebates for the projects.
11. Using a programmable thermostat and setting it to increase the temperature by 10 degrees in the summer and decrease it by 10 degrees in the winter, when you are not home during the day, can save you up to 10% on your monthly energy costs.
12. Fans cool people with the wind chill effect, but do not actually cool the room itself. Turn off fans when you are not in the room.
13. Switching the direction of your ceiling fan in winter can help push hot air down from the top of your room and help keep your room at a comfortable temperature.
14. You should clean the vents in your refrigerators, dryers, and other large appliances several times a year. They easily become clogged with dirt and dust, requiring more energy for use.
15. Let dishes air dry instead of using your dishwasher's heated dry setting.
16. Place the refrigerator away from the oven or dishwasher and out of direct sunlight.
17. Move the faucet lever to the cold position when using small amounts of water; placing the lever in the hot position draws hot water even if it never reaches the faucet. (Energy is used to heat water.)
18. Running your dishwasher, washing machine, and clothes dryer at night, outside of peak energy times, will reduce the demand for energy during peak times and reduce the strain on the power grid. When there is high energy demand during peak times, the use of older, less efficient energy generation facilities is often needed. By decreasing the use of these less efficient facilities, you will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.
19. Cover pots and pans when you cook. The food cooks faster and you'll use less energy.
20. When cooking, match the size of the pan to the heating element to avoid wasting energy.

Energy Conservation Toss Game Fact Sources

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