Controlling Energy Hogs

Overview: Students will identify appliances, lights, and other plug loads that should be shut off when not in use--if left on, they become "Energy Hogs".

Objectives: Students will...

- Identify familiar technological items used in their daily school life
- work with others
- share responsibility for planning classroom events and activities

Time: 15 - 30 minutes

Materials: Energy Hog tags (included) and tape.

Suggested Grade Level: pre-K - 2

Background: An Energy Hog is anything that wastes electricity. It can be lights left on when no one is around, it can be computers or monitors left on when no one is using them Anything with a plug or an   Turning electrical items off when not in use should be easy.

Vocabulary: Plug Load: any electrical equipment that is plugged into a wall outlet or electrical plug. Bust: (slang) to place under arrest. Implies gaining control. "Bust Energy Hogs"

Procedure

1. Ask students if they are aware of items in the classroom that require electricity to operate.

2. Ask students why anything that uses electricity should be left on when not in use.

3. Ask what would happen if everything was turned off when not in use.

4. Cut out Bust Energy Hogs tags. Have students put Energy Hog tags on on/off switches for items in the classroom.

5. As a class make a checklist of potential Energy Hogs. Post it in the classroom

6. A new job could be created: Energy Monitor. The energy monitor's job is to be sure that all items marked with the Energy Hog tag are turned off after an activity and/or when the class leaves the room.

7. Talk about ways to let other people in the school know to identify and control their Energy Hogs. Share ideas with the school.

8. Ask students if they have any Energy Hogs at home. Talk about ways to control those hogs too.

Extension

If students have access to watt meter, have them find out how much energy each plug load takes. What plug load takes the most energy? What takes the least? Record how much energy they will save just by turning things off when not in use or create a graph so younger students can see how much energy can be saved. Post this graph as a reminder to control Energy Hogs.