



“TURN OFF THE LIGHTS!”

Teaching youngsters the important lesson of energy efficiency

Electronic and mobile devices, TVs, computers, and gaming stations have become ubiquitous fixtures in our homes, particularly those with children. Consumer electronics coupled with the proliferation of smart home appliances, technology, and electric vehicles have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles.

This ever-connected world is the modern environment in which children are growing up. And with lifestyles increasingly reliant on technology and, in turn, energy consumption, teaching youngsters to save energy is an important life lesson.

The why

Before parents can teach their children how to save energy, they must first answer the question, “*What’s in it for me?*” As most parents can attest, convincing kids to care about energy efficiency is a hard sell. Parents need to explain why it’s important to save energy and how it benefits the child — otherwise the child will not understand the need to change his or her habits and will be less motivated to do so. In the simplest terms, less money spent on an electric bill can mean more money used for fun activities (that’s something children can relate to!).



Less tangible, but just as important: Using less energy means running your home more efficiently, conserving natural resources, and helping the environment.

Learning by doing

Because “saving energy” is an abstract concept for children, be specific about energy efficiency actions and set an example. We know that children learn by observing. Even if they don’t say anything, children are processing your actions. When you turn off the lights when

leaving a room or unplug the phone charger once the device is fully charged, they will notice.

Learning about energy efficiency doesn’t have to be a boring lecture. Make it fun for greater impact.

For younger kids, turn energy efficiency into a “treasure hunt” game to locate all the things in your home that use electricity.

Depending on the age of the children, challenge them to count and group the items into categories: electronics, appliances, lights, etc. If age appropriate, have them create a list. Ask which gadgets and appliances could be turned off or unplugged to save power every day.

For older children, show them how to program the smart thermostat and appliances. Shop with them for LED lights and discuss Energy Star-rated appliances. Show them the electric bill so they can see the costs, energy use, and how their actions impact the bill.

Kids of all ages can learn a few simple energy-saving habits that can last a lifetime:

- Turn off lights, devices, computers, and video consoles when not in use.
- Open blinds and curtains during winter days to let warm sunlight in, and close them during summer days to keep your home cooler.
- If your children are old enough to wash their own clothes or run the dishwasher, teach them to do so only with a full load and during off-peak hours.

Rewards

Offer rewards for agreed-upon milestones. Rewards provide positive reinforcement on energy-saving actions. The idea is to create a *habit* of being energy efficient. For parents, this could mean less nagging about turning off the lights!

Teaching your children about saving energy is not only a creative way to spend time with them; it also helps your home to be more energy efficient and can instill good habits that will benefit your child long into adulthood.



Terry Stout
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER



MAPPING MINUTE

BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH

Neighbors to the North



Michael Griffith
GIS SPECIALIST



Hey everyone! I hope you are doing well and adjusting to the back-to-school routine. But before we get mired in the day-to-day, I want to tell you about my vacation to Canada! Yes, you read that right. My family and I visited our friendly neighbors to the north, and it was the first time I had ever left the USA.

Before we packed up our vehicles and headed up the road, we had some homework and preparing to do. First we had to get our passports. Before 9/11 it was possible to cross the border with only your driver's license, but now you must present a passport or NEXUS card at the border. Second, contact your bank. We didn't and had a HUGE headache trying to use our debit cards (they got locked — thankfully we had cash). Third, do research about what you can or can't bring with you. A quick Google search should give you all of the info.

The drive to our destination was relatively easy. From Clarksburg, take I-79 north to I-90 towards Buffalo, then get on I-190 towards Niagara Falls

and boom you'll cross Peace Bridge to enter Canada! From there our trip continued north on the QEW to 400 north to 69 north and then to 64 to Noelville, Ontario, where we stayed in Wolseley Bay on the French River. Speaking of water, did you know that Canada has around 2 million lakes? More than any other country combined.

It wasn't a huge culture shock to visit there. However, you know that you're not in Kansas anymore as soon as you cross the border. The speed limit signs instantly change to km/h instead of mph, fuel is sold by the liter rather than by gallon, and temperature is displayed in Celsius not Fahrenheit. And the snacks, OH THE SNACKS! They are so much better than what we have in the States. I'm considering moving just on that alone! Also, the people are super friendly and sometimes end their sentences with "Eh?"

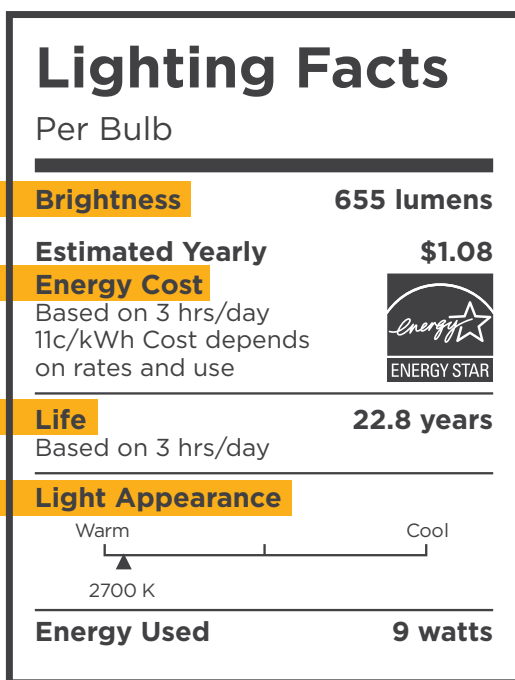
While we were there we fished for pike and walleye with our awesome guides, Dale and James. They totally made the experience with their friendliness and enthusiasm for fishing! Although I didn't catch anything but a few smallmouths, the rest of the family managed to catch a few walleyes to bring home with us! We were also there during Canada Day and the 4th of July. So we got to celebrate two holidays, even though it was just our cabin celebrating the 4th.

All in all, for a country that has the longest non-militarized border, the most lakes, the most doughnut shops, the longest coastline, and formally became an independent country in 1982, it is definitely worth your visit. I am already planning on returning next year to redeem myself for not landing that large pike that jumped off my line. I'm coming after you, fish!

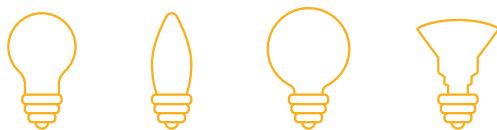
This has been your mapping minute.

Lighting Labels and Lingo

These days, consumers have endless options when it comes to purchasing lightbulbs, but the labels can be confusing! Use the information below as a helpful guide for browsing bulbs.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Read the Label

Under the Energy Labeling Rule, all lightbulb manufacturers are required to give consumers key, easy-to-understand information on bulb efficiency. Take advantage of the Lighting Facts label, which gives you the information you need to buy the most energy-efficient bulb to meet your lighting needs. The label includes information on the bulb's **brightness**, **energy cost**, **life**, **light appearance** and **energy used** (wattage).

Save Energy

Bulbs are available in **many shapes and sizes** to fit your home's needs. Choosing more efficient bulbs can help reduce energy consumption and save you money!

- LEDs use 25% to 30% of the energy and last eight to 25 times longer than halogen incandescent bulbs.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR-rated bulbs to maximize energy efficiency.

Buy Lumens, not Watts

Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption.

Tip: To replace a 100-watt incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that produces about 1,600 lumens.



Incandescent
100 watt
1,600 lumens



LED
14 - 20 watt
1,600 lumens



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: energy.gov



**Our office will be
closed on Sept. 3 in
observance of Labor Day.**

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