Conserving Energy at Home

South Africa has a **limited supply of electricity**, and producing it often depends on non-renewable resources like **coal and oil**. These fossil fuels will eventually run out, and burning them pollutes the air and contributes to **climate change**. That's why it's important for every household to **use electricity wisely** and find ways to save energy wherever possible.

There are many simple actions we can take to reduce our electricity use. One of the easiest is to s**witch off lights and appliances** when they are not being used. Leaving lights, televisions or chargers on when no one is using them wastes a lot of power over time.

Using **energy-efficient lightbulbs**, such as LED bulbs, is another good step. These bulbs use much less electricity than older types, like incandescent bulbs, and they last longer, too.



In **winter**, instead of turning on electric heaters all day, you can save electricity by **wearing warm clothing**, using **blankets** and **blocking cold draughts** with door snakes or rolled-up towels.



When cooking, make sure to **match the size of the pot to the size of the stove plate** so that heat isn't wasted. Another great way to save electricity while cooking is to use a **hotbox**. A hotbox is an insulated container that keeps food warm and allows it to continue cooking slowly **without using more energy** after the food is brought to a boil.



Choosing **energy-efficient appliances** is also very important. Appliances like **fridges, washing machines and kettles** now have energy ratings. Look for appliances with an **A-rating** or 'energy efficient' label. They may cost a bit more to buy, but they use much less electricity and save money in the long run.

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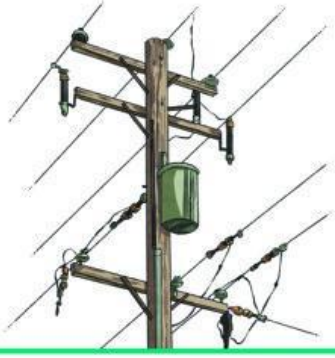
You can also reduce electricity use by:

- using natural sunlight during the day instead of turning on lights;
- boiling only as much water as you need in the kettle;
- drying clothes in the sun instead of using a tumble dryer;
- unplugging chargers and devices when they are not in use, because some still use electricity even when turned off.

By conserving electricity, we help reduce pressure on South Africa's electricity supply, cut down our electricity bills and protect the environment by using fewer fossil fuels. Every small action makes a difference!

Activity

1. Why is it important to save electricity in South Africa?
   a. Because electricity is free
   b. Because there is an unlimited supply
   c. Because there is a limited supply
   d. Because it makes lights brighter
2. Which is NOT a good way to save energy at home?
   a. Turning off lights when not in use
   b. Using energy-saving light bulbs
   c. Wearing warm clothes instead of using heaters
   d. Leaving appliances on all the time
3. What is a 'hotbox' used for?
   a. To keep food warm and cook it using less electricity
   b. To heat the whole house
   c. To store energy for the generator
   d. To burn coal safely indoors
4. Which of these helps reduce the need for using lights during the day?
   a. Wearing sunglasses inside
   b. Using candles
   c. Letting in natural sunlight
   d. Painting walls with dark colours
5. Why is it a good idea to buy appliances with an A-rating?
   a. They work faster and use more electricity
   b. They are more expensive to run
   c. They use less electricity and save money
   d. They are heavier and last longer



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Creative Activity

Design an A4 poster that you can put up at school or at home to encourage power saving. Remember to use bold colours and a clear message.

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Answers

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