

INV. 1 ACTIVITY—SURVEY ELECTRICITY USAGE

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Survey the different uses of electricity in your home.

Suggested procedure

Observe your household for a few days. Take notes on energy used.

How many lights do you have?

Are lights left on when leaving the room or shut off?

Which appliances are used the most and the least?

How many devices are left on when not used?

How often do you open up the refrigerator?

How many gadgets at home require frequent recharging?

How many items at home are always plugged in and operating?

Do you have any devices that are powered by solar cells?

Research energy conserving methods. Are there any suggestions you can make to the household to conserve energy and save money? Share with the household members. Record your ideas in your science notebook.

INV. 1 ACTIVITY—INVESTIGATE FLASHLIGHTS

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Suggested procedure

Survey the number of flashlights you have in your household.

Are they working?

Open them up and check the batteries.

- What orientation are the batteries in?
- What size batteries are they?

Share your findings with an adult and write a summary in your science notebook.

INV. 1 ACTIVITY—RESEARCH SOLAR COMPANIES

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Suggested procedure

Find out if there are local solar technology companies in your area. Do many of your local schools, business and homes have solar panels?

Read the *FOSS Science Resources: Energy* ebook and/or audio book article "Engineering a Solar Lighting System."

Research what this solar company is doing.

<https://wecaresolar.org/impact/stories/>

<https://wecaresolar.org/media/videos/>

Share what you learn with a friends or family members and write a summary in your science notebook.

Notes:

If you haven't already, check out *FOSS Science Resources: Energy* ebook and/or audio books article, "Energy Sources."