



## Directions

1. Work through the survey with other students, perhaps dividing into teams for each section.
2. For some items, you may need to ask for help from your teacher, principal, or custodian.
3. For each item, indicate the one answer that is most true for your school.
4. When the survey is completed, input the answers at [ThinkEarth.org/surveys](http://ThinkEarth.org/surveys) to receive recommendations for ways to THINK EARTH at your school.

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## Part 1: Conserving Energy

### 1. Heating System

How old is your school's heating and cooling system?

- Less than 15 years old
- 15 years or older
- Don't know/can't determine

### 2. Heating System Maintenance

Is your school's heating and cooling system maintained on a regular basis?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know/can't determine

### 3. Heating Temperature

At what temperature are the heater thermostats set when school is in session?

- 68 degrees or lower
- 69 degrees or higher
- Don't have thermostats for heating

#### 4. Cooling Temperature

At what temperature are air conditioner (cooling) thermostats usually set when school is in session?

- 78 degrees or higher
- 77 degrees or lower
- Don't have thermostats for air conditioning/cooling

#### 5. Nighttime/Weekend Temperature

Is the heating/cooling system turned down or off at night and on weekends when the school is empty?

- Yes
- No
- Don't have a heating/cooling system

#### 6. Empty Rooms

Is the heating/cooling system turned off or are vents closed in rooms that are not being used for a day or more?

- Yes
- No
- Don't have a heating/cooling system

#### 7. Windows and Doors

Are windows and outside doors kept closed when the heating or air conditioning is on?

- Yes
- No, sometimes they are left open
- Don't have a heating/cooling system

#### 8. Air Leaks

Does air leak in and out of closed windows or doors? *(Not sure? See the Draftometer Test help box.)*

- No
- Yes, there are some air leaks

#### **Draftometer Test**

To check windows and doors for leaks, conduct the following test:

1. Cut a piece of thin plastic food-wrap about 4 inches wide and 6 inches long.
2. Tape the short edge of the plastic along the edge of a pencil.
3. Hold the draftometer near the edges of closed doors and windows. If the plastic moves, then air is leaking in or out.
4. Also test electrical boxes and outlets (plugs), pipes, air ducts, and other locations where there is a possible air path to the outside.

### 9. Blocked Vents

Are any heating or air conditioning vents blocked by furniture or other obstructions, such as bookshelves, equipment, drapes?

- No
- Yes
- Don't have vents

### 10. Shaded Buildings

During hot weather, are the sunny sides of school buildings shaded in the afternoons by trees, awnings, or other sun barriers?

- Yes
- No

### 11. Lights

Are the lights off in rooms that are not being used?

- Yes, most of the time
- No, lights are usually left on

### 12. Lighting System

How old is your school's lighting system?

- Less than 5 years old
- More than 5 years old
- Can't determine

### 13. Natural Light

Do most classrooms use natural light (not electric lights) when possible?

- Yes
- No
- Most classrooms do not have outside windows or skylights

### 14. Outdoor Lighting

What types of bulbs are used in outdoor lights? *(Not sure? See the Outdoor Lights help box.)*

- Fluorescent or high-pressure sodium
- Incandescent
- No outdoor lights

#### Outdoor Lights

- Incandescent bulbs are the typical round bulbs, which get very hot.
- Fluorescent bulbs are either straight tubes or tubes bent into compact bulbs, which stay cool.
- High-pressure sodium bulbs emit a yellowish light.

## 15. Computer Equipment

Are computers and monitors turned off at the end of the school day?

- Yes, most of the time
- No, they are often left on all night

## 16. Phantom Loads

Do many classrooms and offices have phantom loads? *(See the Phantom Loads help box.)*

- No
- Yes, many have phantom loads

### Phantom Loads

Phantom loads are created by appliances or equipment that constantly draw power when plugged in, even if turned OFF. Look for appliances/equipment that have remote controls and that feature a continuous digital display, such as glowing clocks or "on" lights. These "energy vampires" in schools can include:

- TVs
- DVD players
- cable boxes
- computer equipment
- audio equipment
- projectors
- microwaves
- hot plates
- coffee makers
- chargers

## Part 2: Saving Water

### 17. Indoor Leaks

Are indoor drinking fountains, faucets, pipes, and showerheads free of leaks? *(Check classrooms, hallways, restrooms, gyms, cafeteria.)*

- Yes
- No, there are some leaks

### 18. Faucets

Are all faucets, drinking fountains, and showers turned off when not being used?

- Yes
- No, some faucets are left on

## 19. Toilet Type

What type of toilets are installed in your school? *(See the Toilet Type help box.)*

- Low flush or high efficiency
- Regular

### Toilet Type

Under the tank lid or just behind the seat, the number of gallons per flush or the toilet type might be indicated. Or ask the school maintenance supervisor.

- An older regular toilet uses 3.5 to 7 gallons per flush.
- A low flush toilet uses 1.6 gallons per flush.
- A high-efficiency toilet uses 1.3 gallons or less per flush.

## 20. Outdoor Leaks

Are outdoor hoses, pipes, sprinklers, faucets, and drinking fountains free of leaks?

- Yes
- No, there are some leaks

## 21. Clean-Ups

How often are walkways or paved areas cleaned with water from the hose?

- Never or rarely
- Often

## 22. Pool Cover

Is a cover placed over the swimming pool at night and at other times when the pool is not being used?

- Yes
- No, not always
- Don't have a pool at our school

## 23. Sprinkler Type

If automatic sprinklers are used, what type are they? *(Not sure? See the Sprinklers help box.)*

- Rotating nozzle
- Conventional fan spray
- Don't have automatic sprinklers

### Sprinklers

- Conventional pop-up automatic sprinklers spray a fan of water across the grass.
- Rotating sprinklers project streams of water while the sprinkler head rotates to cover the area.

#### 24. Condition of Sprinklers

Are all of the outdoor sprinkler heads working properly—spraying evenly in the right direction with no water gushing or trickling out?

- Yes
- No, some sprinkler heads are not working properly
- Don't have automatic sprinklers

#### 25. Overspray

Are there areas where the sprinklers—automatic or manual—spray a lot of water onto the pavement?

- No
- Yes
- Don't use sprinklers

#### 26. Runoff

When the sprinklers are on, how much water runs onto paved areas?

- Not very much
- Quite a lot
- Don't use sprinklers

#### 27. Seasonal Watering

Are the grounds watered less during cooler months and not at all when it is raining?

- Yes
- No, watering schedule always stays the same
- Don't have grounds to water

#### 28. Mulch

Do most of the trees and other outdoor plants have mulch around them to slow water evaporation? *(See the What's Mulch? help box.)*

- Yes
- No
- Don't have trees or plants

##### **What's Mulch?**

Mulch covers the soil but allows water to permeate and slows water evaporation. It might be woodchips, shredded tree bark, sawdust, straw, grass clippings, rubber shavings, or other organic or inorganic material.

### Part 3: Reducing Waste & Pollution

### 29. Disposable vs. Reusable

Does your cafeteria use disposable ("throw-away") plates, utensils, cups, glasses, and trays?

- No, most can be washed and reused
- Yes, most everything is disposable
- Don't have a cafeteria

### 30. Paper Napkins and Towels

When taking paper napkins or paper towels, do students often take more than they really need?

- No
- Yes, students often take more than they use

### 31. Paper

Do most students, teachers, and staff usually write and print on both sides of paper?

- Yes
- No

### 32. Recycling

Are metal cans, plastic and glass bottles, cardboard, writing paper, and other paper items recycled? *(See Ways to Recycle help box.)*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

#### Ways to Recycle

There are several ways that your school might recycle:

1. You might have separate containers for recyclable and non-recyclable waste that are picked up by your trash collector.
2. You might put all waste in the same containers because your trash company sorts out recyclables.
3. You might save recyclables and take them to a recycle center.

### 33. Green Waste

Are grass clippings and other "green waste" at your school composted? *(See the Ways to Compost help box.)*

- Yes
- No
- Don't have green waste

#### Ways to Compost

There are several ways that your school might compost:

1. "Green waste" is put into a compost pile or bin at your school or at a district site.
2. "Green waste" goes into separate containers that are picked up by your trash collector.

### 34. Environmentally-Friendly Products

Are cleaners, polishes, paints, and other products used at school safe for the environment? *(Not sure? See the Environmentally-Friendly help box.)*

- Yes, almost all products are safe for the environment
- No, many products are not safe

#### Environmentally-Friendly

Environmentally-friendly products do not harm people or the environment in their production, use, or disposal. Such products will not have words on the label such as "hazardous," "toxic," "dangerous," "caution," or "warning." Products that are safe for the environment are often water-based or derived from natural ingredients.



### 35. Hazardous Wastes

How are hazardous wastes disposed of? *(See the What's Hazardous? help box.)*

- Taken to special hazardous waste disposal sites in our community
- Put in the regular trash can or poured onto the ground or down drains

#### What's Hazardous?

Hazardous waste includes products that can harm people or the environment. Look for labels that have warnings or cautions, or for words such as "hazardous," "toxic," "poisonous," and "dangerous." Hazardous waste includes:

- used motor oil
- paint
- cleaners and solvents
- pesticides
- ink cartridges
- batteries
- electronic equipment

### 36. Litter

How much litter is on the floors or the ground throughout your school?

- None or very little
- Quite a lot

### 37. Carpooling

Do most students travel in carpools if they come to school by car? *(Not sure? See the Carpools help box.)*

- Yes, most cars bring more than one student
- No, most cars bring only one student
- Very few students come by car

#### Carpools

Survey all the students at your school asking if they come by car and, if so, how many students are in the car. Or as student arrive at school, count how many arrive by car and how many students are in each car.

### 38. Buses

Do school bus drivers turn off their engines when waiting for more than 30 seconds?

- Yes
- No, some drivers keep their engines running while waiting
- No school buses

**39. Age of School Buses**

Are all of the school buses less than 10 years old?

- Yes
- No, some buses are more than 10 years old
- No school buses

**40. Grounds Maintenance**

What type of equipment is used for grounds maintenance?

- Manual or electric equipment
- Gasoline-powered mower and/or blower