

Lights

It's important to have good quality lighting in a school and enough light.

Lights use electricity, which costs money and can cause pollution.

Air Conditioning

AC helps you stay cool in hot weather.

AC uses a lot of electricity, which costs money and can cause pollution.

Is there AC anywhere in your school?

Electric Bills

Electricity costs money. Whenever you use electrical devices or lighting, the school district is charged.

This means there is less money available for classroom books and supplies and other things the district must provide.

Heat

Most areas need heat in the winter. The heat in a school building probably comes from a boiler that burns natural gas or oil.

It takes a lot of these fuels to heat a building. This is very expensive for the school district.

Books & Supplies

You probably don't think about it much, but the materials you use in class cost money.

The more money spent on energy, the less money there is to get the materials you need to help you learn.

Weather

The weather greatly affects energy use.

The colder it is outside, the more it costs to heat the building. The hotter it is, the more it costs to run the AC.

Students

When you are comfortable, you learn better. Schools need to heat and cool buildings to maintain comfortable temperatures, which costs money.

Students can do a lot to save energy around the school. Can you think of some ways?

Oil & Natural Gas Prices

The boiler that heats your school probably runs on oil or natural gas. When the cost of these fuels increases, it costs more to heat the building. The cost of these fuels usually rises during winter months.

Indoor Air Quality

Clean air in a school is important for students to be healthy and comfortable. Your building has a system that brings in fresh air. This system uses a lot of energy, which costs money. The more students there are in a building, the harder these systems must work.

District Budget

The school district has a limited amount of money it can spend each year.

The less money it spends on energy, the more it can spend on classroom supplies and hiring more teachers.

Heating Bills

Heating a building costs money. The more heat used, the more the school district has to pay.

This means there is less money available for classroom books and supplies and other things the district must provide.

Hot Water

Heating water costs money. Your school probably uses natural gas or oil to heat water. The more hot water used, the more the school district has to pay.

This means there is less money available for classroom books and supplies and other things the district must provide.

Air Pollution/ Global Warming

Every time the heating system is operating in your building, the boiler is releasing emissions that can pollute the air. The electricity used in the building comes from a power plant, which can also add pollution to the air.

Many of these emissions can contribute to global warming.

Computers

Computers use electricity that costs money. If you leave computers on when they're not in use, it wastes energy.

Computers also cost a lot of money to buy. The more your district has to pay for energy, the less money there is to buy computers.

Teachers

Teachers are more effective when the building is at a comfortable temperature. Buildings must be heated in cold months, which costs money.

Teachers can do a lot to save energy around the school. Can you think of some ways?

Comfort

Your comfort is important. You need heat in the winter; you need good lighting and clean air in your school.

All of these use energy, which the school district has to pay for.