
ENERGY MONITOR ACTIVITY HANDOUT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

TEP BRIGHT STUDENTS: THE CONSERVATION GENERATION



Tucson Electric Power

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Becoming more energy efficient at home has many benefits, including prolonging the lifespan of appliances and increasing comfort. Of course, the biggest benefit of energy efficiency is reducing overall energy consumption, which **lowers monthly energy bills**. There are many easy ways to become more energy efficient at home, including: replacing incandescent light bulbs with CFLs or LEDs, regularly changing/cleaning the air filter on central heating/AC units, ensuring that refrigerators and freezers are set to the appropriate temperature, and properly sealing doors and windows with weather stripping.

Large appliances such as central heating/AC units, refrigerators, water heaters, dishwashers, washers, dryers, and pool pumps use most of total household energy. When purchasing a new appliance, look for the EnergyStar label, which demonstrates that it has met a federal energy efficiency standard. Finally, some appliances and other home improvements qualify for TEP rebates; more information can be found at <https://www.tep.com/efficiency/home/efficienthome/>.

Your child has an exciting opportunity to more deeply engage with some of the energy efficiency concepts taught in class as part of TEP's Bright Students program. Your child's teacher has sent home an Energy Monitor with your child in order for him/her to gather some basic data on refrigerator energy consumption.

For your child to successfully complete the assignment please allow him/her to have access to your refrigerator's outlet and to adjust the refrigerator and freezer temperature dials several times. Your son/daughter will use the Bright Students refrigerator and freezer thermometer card included in the Bright Students Energy Savings Kit, which came home following the in-class energy efficiency presentation by TEP earlier in the school year.

We recommend setting your refrigerator and freezer to 37-40 degrees and 0-5 degrees, respectively. By ensuring that your refrigerator and freezer's temperature settings align with these recommendations, your child will help you and your home:

- Cut down on energy use and costs (refrigerators can account for over 15% of total home electricity use!)
- Prolong the lifespan of the refrigerator
- Ensure that your fresh and frozen foods are stored at the appropriate temperature

Thank you in advance for supporting your child with this assignment. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher directly.

- The TEP *Bright Students* Energy Efficiency Program