

Fact Sheet

REEECAP: Energy Efficiency in Namibian Schools

Objective

- ☀ To identify the main opportunities for energy-efficiency in Namibian schools,
- ☀ To develop a set of useful and cost-effective recommendations for secondary schools, and
- ☀ To design, develop, and test awareness-raising materials and strategies for energy efficiency in schools.

Background

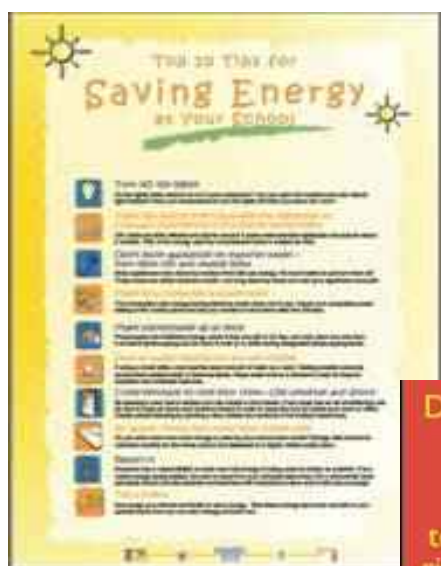
There has never been a more appropriate or relevant time for Namibia's schools to strive for energy efficiency. Namibia's electricity crisis is being widely discussed at home, in classrooms, and on the front pages of Namibia's newspapers, and even young students are expressing interest in learning more. By introducing energy efficiency concepts and practices into the daily life of Namibian schools, students and staff will acquire skills and knowledge which enable them to use energy conscientiously and efficiently at school and at home and in the future. Currently, Namibian schools spend hundreds of thousands of N\$ per year on electricity which is being wasted through poor practices and an over-reliance on outdated and inefficient technology.



A learner points out that lights have been left on overnight

Project Outputs and Results

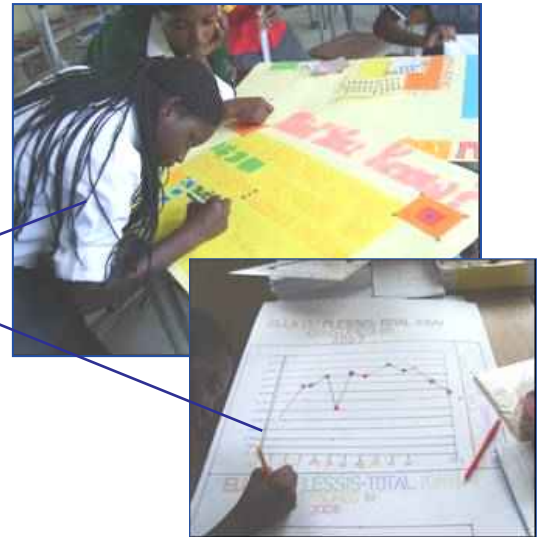
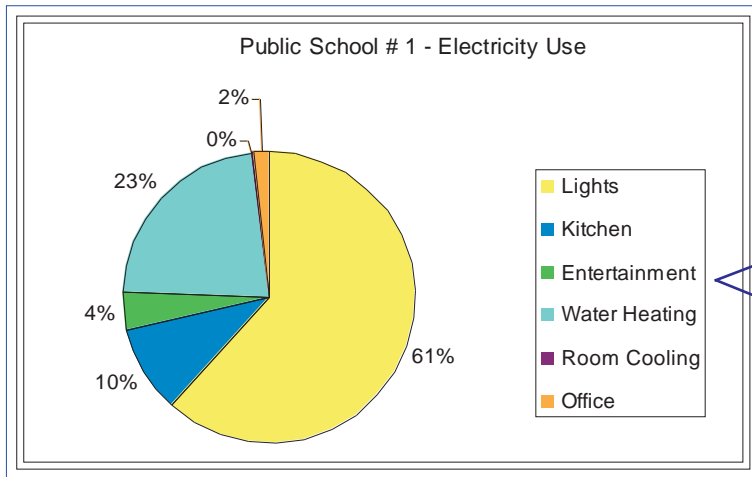
The EE in Namibian schools project conducted baseline studies at five secondary schools—two public schools, two private schools, and one public technical high school. Through surveys, interviews, and guided tours of the schools, the DRFN team could identify the most common and pressing energy-related needs at schools. The project discovered that schools have a limited understanding of how their electricity is being used, and are therefore unlikely to know how and where to save energy. To enable schools to better monitor their consumption and to implement the project's recommendations, an "Energy Efficiency Toolkit" was developed that includes: an energy saving tips poster, reminder stickers, an energy saving in action mural, an energy auditing software tool, electricity consumption loggers, and various information resources such as DRFN Energy Desk fact sheets.



From left to right: Top 10 Tips Poster, colorful reminder stickers, energy-related information sheets, and Mr. Phillipus Sheehama working on the Energy Saving in Action mural.

Project Highlights—Working with Bright Students to Find Smart Solutions

The EE in Schools project team worked with student based energy clubs at three different schools. In order to enable these student groups to identify electricity waste and opportunities for savings at their school, the DRFN assisted them with performing basic energy audits. The learners worked together to count all appliances and to record their power wattages and hours of use, and were able to identify the biggest electricity users at their school—by far, lights and room cooling. At one public school, where air conditioning units and fans are not used, approximately 60% of their monthly consumption is used for lighting alone.

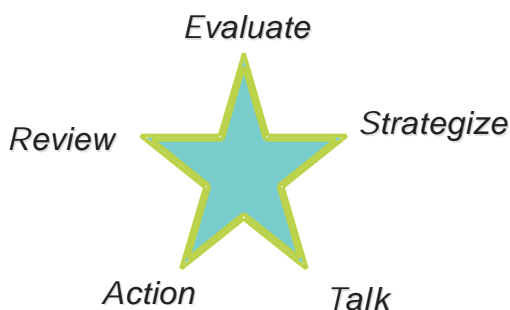


Students making posters of the audit results and a chart of their school's monthly electricity consumption in preparation for a school wide assembly.

Implementing Change—Follow the E-STAR Method!

Effective implementation of an awareness raising and behavioural change campaign requires careful planning, the involvement of both staff and students, and the monitoring of the project's results. In order to help schools remember the most important phases of an energy-saving project, the DRFN recommends following five basic steps, summarized by the E-STAR diagram below. Energy-saving projects are a chance for the entire school community to learn and take action together. Many simple behaviour changes can be implemented at no cost— all it takes is a collective effort and commitment from a school that energy efficiency is a priority.

A successful project begins with *evaluating* the school's current consumption, *strategizing* which energy-saving measures and activities are feasible, *talking* about energy-saving tips and concepts with the rest of the school community, taking *action* to implement changes, and continually monitoring and *reviewing* electricity use.



Top 10 Tips for Saving Energy at School:

1. Turn off the lights
2. Change to energy saving CFL light bulbs
3. Don't leave appliances on stand-by mode
4. Make your computer a power-saver
5. Make photocopies all at once and then turn it off
6. Save on water heating for tea & coffee
7. Use windows and doors to cool a room
8. Regularly monitor your school's consumption
9. Report waste and do something to stop it
10. Tell a friend about the importance of saving

REEECAP Fact Sheets are available from:

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