



STEM Teaser Family Activities | **Love Your Planet**

Green Changes

Grade Levels
2-5

Did You Know?

The actions we take today will affect our environment tomorrow. When we use energy (for purposes like transportation, power, heat, or to bring water into our homes), gas is released. This gas can cause Earth's temperature to rise, which can have a negative impact on the nature around us. For this reason, it is important for everyone—children and adults alike—to do our part to limit the amount of energy and water we use every day!

Help Her Lead at Home

Talk: Go for a walk outside with your child and take a moment to appreciate the nature around you—whether it's a tree growing on the side of a busy street, a neighbor's flower garden, or a stream alongside your path. Use this time together to discuss the importance of taking care of our environment. Ask your child to share what they have already learned in school about protecting our planet.

Do: When you return home from your walk, explain that one way that you can see if your family is being eco-friendly is to hold a home energy audit. Tell your child that an audit is an official inspection, so a home energy audit is a “official” inspection about how much energy your home uses. Read through the Eco-Friendly Questionnaire, and explain that you will work together to review every room in your home to see if you are being as kind to the environment as possible.

Eco-Friendly: You probably know that you can be a friend to others by being kind. Did you know you can also be a friend to the environment by being kind to Planet Earth? This is called being eco-friendly!

As you perform the audit together, encourage your child to think about:

- How many lights do we have? Are they all necessary? Do we always keep them on?
- Do we use heat or air conditioning?
- How are our windows used? Could they be used differently to help keep the room cooler or warmer?
- Are our electronics, appliances, and chargers always plugged in?
- How do we use water in this room? How could we use less water?

Check out no-cost resources for you and your girl to extend the learning at home: <http://bit.ly/GirlScoutsDE>



Then, work together to select a few specific areas where your family could improve your energy and/or water use, and discuss the changes you should try to make. For instance, if your family uses a lot of water while you brush your teeth, you could try to remember to turn the water off while you're brushing! Use sticky notes or small pieces of paper to write or draw reminders, and then stick each one wherever the reminder will have the biggest impact.

For More Tips

Watch this [video](#) to explore the science behind climate change and global warming. Then read this [article](#) with your child to learn more about the job of a home energy auditor!

Attention Parents and Caregivers: Is your girl interested in the environment and in protecting our planet? Then Girl Scouts is the place for her. Girl Scouts' "It's Your Planet—Love It!" program gives her the opportunity to take the lead on issues such as clean water and air, noise pollution, climate change, agriculture, and more. This activity is powered by Girl Scouts of the USA. Girl Scouts is the place for every girl, and it always will be. [SIGN UP NOW.](#)

Check out no-cost resources for you and your girl to extend the learning at home: <http://bit.ly/GirlScoutsDE>

Eco-Friendly Questionnaire

Room: Kitchen	
How do we use energy in the kitchen?	How do we use water in the kitchen?
How could we reduce the amount of energy we use in the kitchen?	How could we reduce the amount of water we use in the kitchen?

Room: Bathroom	
How do we use energy in the bathroom?	How do we use water in the bathroom?
How could we reduce the amount of energy we use in the bathroom?	How could we reduce the amount of water we use in the bathroom?

Room: Bedroom	Room: _____
How do we use energy in our bedrooms?	How do we use energy in the _____?
How could we reduce the amount of energy we use in our bedrooms?	How could we reduce the amount of energy we use in the _____?