**Climate change and energy use**

**Electricity at school**

**Electricity uses around a third of our schools’ energy and is very expensive to produce. As ICT is used more and more in schools, the costs of electricity are rising. However cutting down our electricity use is one of the easiest things we can do to save energy.**

**Switch off at the socket!**

**When electrical equipment is in ‘standby mode’, it is still ON because it is still consuming power. Electrical products like PCs, photocopiers and interactive whiteboards use lots of energy on standby. Often these are only used a few hours a day but they are plugged into the wall all the time – even at weekends!**

**Turn off the lights**

**When we leave lights on in empty classrooms and corridors, we are wasting both money and energy. It is a myth that fluorescent lights use more energy if they are switched on and off frequently. So switch off when leaving a classroom. Most schools still use traditional light bulbs which waste a lot of energy. Energy efficient options are available for all traditional light fittings used in schools.**

**Top tip**

**Only use standby mode during lessons. After lessons, switch equipment off at the socket.**

**To remember**

**Lighting uses around 8% of energy in schools, but makes up as much as 20% of schools’ energy costs.**

**Brain-teaser**

A PC, peripherals and monitor left on standby when not in use will add up to R100 to the annual energy bill of a school. If a school switched off 10 computers rather than leaving them on standby, how much money would they save? There are about 1000 schools in the country, if they all did this, how much money could be saved?

Electricity Usage: Survey Form

Please complete the following survey as honestly and accurately as possible.

 Name:

 Surname:

 Age:

 How would you describe your usage of electricity? << … >>

**Use Electricity Sparingly**