



PIERCE ENERGY PLANNING  
HELPING SAVE ENERGY DOLLARS

**Energy Quiz and Facts**

1: How much money do you think America spends per year on energy in our primary and secondary schools?

Answer: The annual energy bill to run America's primary and secondary schools is a staggering \$6 billion - more than is spent on textbooks and computers combined.

2. The least efficient schools use X times more energy than the best energy performing schools.

Answer: 3

3. The EPA states that a school district can reduce energy use on average by X% through behavior change.

Answer: 15%

4. According to APS, what are the two highest users of energy in a school?

Answer: Lights = 37%, HVAC = 37%

5. What is the largest user of phantom/vampire energy (i.e., energy being drawn when the item is not in use but plugged in) in the average home?

Answer: Cable box – Uses 6.5 kWh/month in standby mode.

6. How many products does a typical U.S. home have that is constantly drawing power?

Answer: 40

7. What percentage of your electricity bill goes to paying for items that are using phantom/vampire energy?

Answer: 10%

8. A sustainable school uses on average about X% less energy and water than a non-sustainable school.

Answer: 30%

9. True/False Natural lighting can impact students' test scores?

Answer: "Students with the most classroom daylight progressed 20% faster in one year on math tests and 26% faster on reading tests than those students who learned in environments that received the least amount of natural light" (Heschong Mahone Group, 1999, p. 2).

10. True/False Smartboard projectors emit very little heat, thus using very little energy.

Answer: A Smartboard projector can emit around 130 degrees of heat, thus using a lot of energy and increasing the temperature of your classroom.



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**What are simple ways to reduce energy use both at home and in school?**

- Turn off lights
- Turn off Smartboard projectors, computers, and other equipment when not in use
- Close doors and windows when air conditioning is on
- Eliminate non-essential appliances and electrical items
- Use day lighting where possible
- Unplug items that are not in use
- Use powerstrips to easily “unplug” multiple items at once