



Get ready for the audit - the energy audit!

by Julian Celms

As part of Scouts Canada's climate change program, energy audits are a key element to reducing our personal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The average Canadian contributes nearly five tonnes annually of GHGs into our environment. Being aware of how your lifestyle contributes to climate change is the first step in being able to take action.

We all use energy...each one of us is part of the demand that leads to GHGs. How 'clean' energy is varies across Canada. Some provinces use very clean energy such as hydro-electric dams, while others use 'dirty' fuel such as coal fired power plants.

When we travel in our cars we emit greenhouse gasses by using up fossil fuels. Being aware of our energy consumption and learning to save energy where we can, not only helps the environment but will reduce energy costs as well.

Something for everyone!

Our energy audits encourage youth to be mindful of their energy use in age appropriate ways. (Energy audits can be found on the youth web pages – under the Climate Change link.) Let's look at them in more detail:

Beavers

Simplicity is the key! In, "The Mystery of the Energy Gobblers," your observant Beavers can go through their home looking for where the lights, television or stereo may be left on too long. Parents will

love to hear about fun ways to get their children to keep the lights off!

Cubs

It's the Energy Sleuth game! Their mission: investigate the house looking for areas in which they and their family can easily make changes in ways they use energy. Key areas they will investigate: lighting, recycling, heat use, active transportation and water usage. See below for the "oh-so-cool" feature!

Scouts

Not to be outdone by Cubs, the Scout level audit is a little more advanced and looks into these key areas for energy use: lighting, hot water, appliances and equipment, heating and cooling, food packaging and waste. The Scout audit includes lots of tips and information about each of these areas. Their audit also has the "oh-so-cool" feature.

Oh-so-cool!

As part of the second phase of the climate change program, we developed an online calculator designed specifically to work with the Cub and Scout audits! They are really cool and help calculate the amount of GHGs reduced through the energy audits.

Once Cubs and Scouts have completed their paper audit, they can access the online audit from their section web page on www.scouts.ca. They enter the information from the paper audit and then, presto! They calculate the GHGs they reduced (and give you an idea of how many months they have taken a car off the road!). At the end, they can print off a certificate that lists the commitments they made, sign it, show it to you (so you know they

have done that part of the climate change challenge and crest requirement), then post it on the fridge.

Venturers, Rovers and Leaders

Starting at the Venturer range a more sophisticated audit can be done. And for that we turn to the experts – we encourage you to explore the One Tonne Challenge web site at <http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/one-tonne/calculator/english>.

Parents and family

As you encourage your youth to give their audit a try, please remind parents that their child will need a bit of help doing the audit and likely some encouragement in keeping up the commitment to save energy!

So give it a try yourself! – can you reduce your family emissions by one tonne? Take the challenge!
– Julian Celms loves a challenge as Director of Beavers, Cubs and Outdoors.

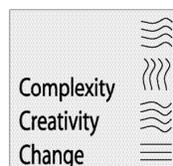
Easy ways to save energy

- Install compact fluorescent bulbs to save electricity.
- Do your own assessment of your energy use – and where you can save!
- Don't keep your fridge too cool.
- Consider putting on a sweater before turning up the heat.
- Take time to stop drafts near your windows and doors when heating or cooling your home.
- Don't idle your car! While waiting to pick up your child from school, turn off your car while you wait.
- Make sure your tires are inflated properly.

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