

February activities

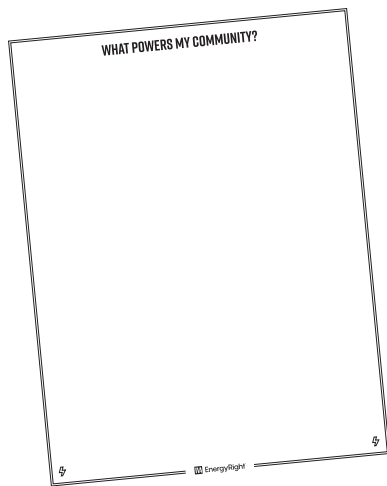
The Power of Community Month

Valentine's Day makes February the perfect time for your students to show their community some love. By conserving energy and saving money through School Uplift, your school is already strengthening the community, but why not get everyone involved? These fun activities bring it all together by getting your friends, families and community members in on the energy-saving action.

What powers my community?

Using the *What Powers My Community Activity Page*, encourage your elementary school students to use the white space to illustrate — in pictures or words — what they love about their community.

When the artwork is complete, share the activity pages throughout the community. Libraries, recreation centers, businesses and other community gathering spaces are all great options for your students' art! It's a great way to foster community pride while drawing attention to your school's participation in energy-saving initiatives. We suggest utilizing poster putty or another comparable removable adhesive to hang signage.



The activity page can be found at the end of this section. You can also download it at EnergyRight.com/school-uplift-resources.

Additional resources

Interested in more hands-on opportunities for your community? Check out these resources for additional project ideas and ways to save energy in your community.



Green Apple Day of Service

With a focus on healthy students and a healthy planet, Green Apple Day of Service provides tips and suggestions on organizing fundraisers and projects. Learn how to plan a community-driven project for your school. Visit greenapple.org for more information.

Energy-saving tips for kids

By reminding students why they love where they live, you can also encourage them to take easy steps to help their community save energy. To find some easy ways for students to chip in, check out TVA's energy-saving tips for kids. To learn more, visit TVA.com/kids/electricity/saving-energy.

Check with your local municipality

Your municipality may offer great programs and events that students can get involved in. To find opportunities for your students and their families, check with nonprofits and community organizations, such as libraries and community centers. To pull from a larger database, try volunteermatch.org.

WHAT POWERS MY COMMUNITY?

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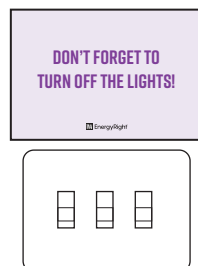
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Turn Off the Lights signage

Using the *Turn Off the Lights* signage template, encourage your middle school students to use the white space to create eye-catching designs to inform and remind their community to conserve energy.

When the signs are complete, share them throughout the community. Libraries, recreation centers, businesses and other community gathering spaces are all great options for your students' art! It's a great way to foster community pride while drawing attention to your school's participation in energy-saving initiatives. We suggest utilizing poster putty or another comparable removable adhesive to hang signage.



The signage template can be found at the end of this section. You can also download it at EnergyRight.com/school-uplift-resources.

Unsure when to turn off your lights?

To learn more about the different types of bulbs and when to turn off your lights, check out the *School Uplift SEM Manual*.



Additional resources

Interested in a hands-on service opportunity for your community? Check out these resources to help organize local projects.

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Light switch signage

Place above light switch

**DON'T FORGET TO
TURN OFF THE LIGHTS!**

 EnergyRight®

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STEM competition

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) competitions allow students to apply theoretical concepts by brainstorming and creating their own project.

Students can ideate, build and implement projects that can save energy in their community. STEM competitions can be stand-alone events or can be incorporated into preexisting science fairs, innovation labs or other events.

The ideal scoring committee size will depend on the volume of students and projects at each school. A typical scoring committee's size ranges from four to five individuals. We recommend a mix of school staff, community leaders and even students from higher grades. This committee should also be responsible for developing a scoring rubric for all participating projects.

Examples of STEM projects

- Building a solar oven.
- Creating a nightlight.
- Investigating a real-world environmental problem.

For more examples, refer to the *Science Buddies* link in the Additional resources section on the next page.



Show off your projects!

Final projects can be displayed throughout the community — in locations such as libraries, businesses and other community gathering spaces — to highlight students' work while initiating local conversations about energy-saving efforts.

Encourage community members to attend the competition! Promote the event via social media, newspaper articles or flyers. Local government departments may also cross-promote the event via their channels for greater outreach.

Additional resources

Want to host your own STEM competition? Check out these resources to help you plan.

STEM competition best practices

To learn more about necessary steps and best practices for organizing a STEM competition at your school, check out the Teachers are Terrific site. Visit [teachersareterrific.com/2021/04/best-practices-for-stem.html#:~:text=So,%20how%20does%20this%20one,idea%20and%20try%20it%20next!](https://www.teachersareterrific.com/2021/04/best-practices-for-stem.html#:~:text=So,%20how%20does%20this%20one,idea%20and%20try%20it%20next!) to learn more.

Project examples

To find examples of previously funded projects for each of the focus groups for the TVA/TSIN STEM grants, visit tsin.org/stem-classroom-awards/ Scroll to the bottom for "Examples of Previously Funded Projects for Each Focus Group" and click on the focus group that you find most important for your school.

Ongoing STEM competitions for students

If your students loved their first STEM competition and want to do more, the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (orise.ornl.gov/k12/students/competitions.html) routinely posts contests just for students.

