

WHY SHOULD WE SAVE ENERGY?



I. WHAT IS ENERGY?

"Energy" is the power that changes things, or makes things happen – like when your muscles make the bicycle move, or gas makes the car run, or electricity gives light in a lamp, or makes the vacuum cleaner clean, or the computer, the TV, and the CD players play! And energy from the sun is even what makes plants grow!

II. THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF ENERGY:

You know about some different kinds of energy. Think of ways the following are used:

- **MUSCLES** (bicycle, whipping up eggs for breakfast, etc.)
- **WIND** (sailboats, windmills)
- **FIRE** (burning wood in the fireplace, coal in the bar-b-q, or wicks in candles)
- **WATER** (pushes dirt down the drain)
- **OIL** [called "petroleum"] and **GAS** (make cars, ships, planes move)
- **ELECTRICITY** (makes the toaster and the TV work)
- **THE SUN** (heats the earth, air and water)

III. SOME KINDS ENERGY GETS USED UP, OTHER KINDS OF ENERGY KEEPS COMING BACK

- Some sources of energy are "used up" as we use them. (A candle burns down, the wood gets used up in the fireplace)
- Others, called "Renewable Energy" can be replaced. (We can plant a tree to create more wood, and the wind keeps coming back, we can't use it up!)

IV. HOW DO WE MAKE SURE WE DON'T RUN OUT OF ENERGY?

- The less we use the kind of energy that gets used up – gas, oil, electricity – the longer energy will last.
- The more "Renewable Energy" we use, the less we need the other kind of energy.

V. IS THERE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP?

You can try to save energy, not use it when you don't really need to. Can you think of ways to save energy? Here are some easy ways:

- Turn lights off when you leave a room! And the heater when you are not home.
- Don't use electrical gadgets when you don't need them – like use a hand-powered can opener instead of an electric one!
- Use things again when you can – foil paper, plastic bags, paper; or instead of throwing them away, giveaway your good clothes and toys!