



## Good practice in saving energy at school

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We teach students between 14 and 18 years old at a high school in Italy.

In the first class, one of the topics we treat is related to the atmosphere. The students learn the composition of air, the importance of the natural greenhouse effect in keeping the average temperature of the planet and how human activity is increasing the level of greenhouse gases, enhancing greenhouse effect and causing global warming.

It is possible to reach this knowledge using different materials and methods such as schoolbooks, articles, websites or films, individual or group work, but as students gradually become aware of the problem of climate change due to global warming, it is necessary to propose a solution that can be experienced and measured by students.

This is the aim of the project "Switch off the light, to switch on the future".

The project doesn't need special materials to be carried out but all the people in the community who work and "live" at school should participate in it. The project deals directly with saving electric energy, by changing the habits of the use of electricity. Saving electric energy means saving CO<sub>2</sub> emitted to atmosphere, and consequently contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gases emission.

Normally, lights in the school are switched on in the early morning and switched off at the end of lessons. Nobody is responsible to turn out the lights in classes, so students choose one or two "Light guardians" who are responsible for the light management. Simple rules for light management are written and distributed in the classes so that the action of saving energy is spread all over the school.

One class participates in the daily data collection from the electricity meter, before and after the beginning of the action.

At the end of the year the data are treated and presented to the community, verifying if the electric consumption has been cut down or not. This presentation is public, with students who directly introduce collected data, results and explanation of the action.

This project has been carried out for some years at Liceo "Sereni" in Laveno Mombello (VA) – Italy. Results in lowering consumption were exceptional the first year of the action, while in the following years the consumption reached a "steady state".

At the moment one of the authors is involved in "introducing" a new school to the programme. Students of one class in the second year are collecting data and the action of saving energy is going to start in the second part of January. Results of this last action could be presented for the GIFT workshop 2014.