

# Lights Off/Computers Off



Activity

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## Activity

*This is the activity with the most immediate impact that you can do in your school. Lights off and computers off (LOCO) save money. Students can track the results of their efforts and see how they can make a difference, almost immediately. There are a number of alternatives depending on the environmental stewardship level of your school/class. Have students organize by class, by team, and across grade to visit every room in the school auditing whether or not computers/lights are turned off when not in use. Then, have the students turn off the computer/lights and put a friendly reminder sticker on the computer/lights (please remember to turn me off).*

*Message: You've got to be LOCO to not turn off your lights and computers.*

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## Role and Responsibilities

LOCO can be organized through:

- The EarthCARE Team
- A Teacher
- A class
- The Students' Council

## Communications

- Announcements on the PA
- School newspaper
- School web site
- Coverage in the local newspaper
- Posters

Note: remember to report the success of your efforts within your school, your Board and your community. In partnership with the custodian, measure the cost savings and announce to the school how you have done. It will be a great motivator for all students.

## Stakeholder Involvement

- School administration – make sure to get approval to turn off all computers and lights when you do your rounds from room to room. You need to make sure that everyone is on side with this decision. If people are used to leaving on their computers with documents half done, you've got some behaviour to change.
- Students – this is a great opportunity to engage students who would not normally play a role in a school-wide activity (especially the younger grades).
- Teachers



### ***Mentorship***

Older students may accompany younger students in their rounds to turn off lights and computers as they go from classroom to classroom.

### ***Role of Class***

- To create the 'call to action' for the other staff and students
- To create teams to work on specific parts of the project
- To create a timeline and a project task list
- To obtain all supplies – signs, stickers, refreshment stations
- To run the event – engage high school volunteers and have it count toward their 40 hours
- To arrange for and help with clean up
- To thank all who helped and participated

### ***Frequency***

This activity can be carried out:

- Daily – some schools have student teams checking for LOCO at every lunch hour. This frequency will quickly help to change school behaviour as reminder stickers will be continuously placed beside lights and computers until finally people get the message.
- Twice Weekly – some schools have student teams checking for LOCO at the beginning of the week (right after school on Monday) and at the end of the week (right after school on Friday).
- Weekly – for schools new to LOCO, you might start with checking computers and lights off once per week. However, the sooner you increase your frequency the sooner students will see the results of their amazing auditing activity and feel like they can make an impact on their schools environmental footprint.