

Why are we talking about energy?

Here are some helpful talking points for each presentation slide:

For Slide 1

Start with excitement:

Hi, everyone! Today, we're going to talk about something that affects all of us—energy.

Provide some facts and insights:

- The UK government has committed to reaching 'Net Zero' by 2050. But what does that mean? It means cutting down the amount of carbon we release into the atmosphere to as close to zero as possible and balancing out any remaining emissions with sustainable solutions.
- Did you know that schools alone make up 15% of all public sector emissions? That means schools – our school – have a huge role to play in reducing the UK's carbon footprint. If we take action now, we can be part of the solution.

But how can we do that? Let's find out.

The Net Zero Challenge for schools

For Slide 2

Discussion point: BEFORE showing your students Slide 2

Schools use an incredible amount of energy. Think about it – our school has lights, computers, heating, and other appliances running all day. But where is most of that energy being used?

(Pause and allow students to respond with answers like lights, heating, computers, and interactive whiteboards.)

Now, you can present Slide 2!

Discussion point:

In fact, lighting alone accounts for HALF of the electricity we use. And heating makes up 40% of the total energy use. But the problem is, a lot of this energy is wasted: leaving lights on, keeping computers running overnight, or heating empty classrooms. The more energy we waste, the bigger our school's carbon footprint.

So, what's the solution? We need to use energy more efficiently and switch to renewable energy sources where possible. Let's explore how we can make that happen.

[Watch the video: UK Net Zero Schools Explainer – National Grid](#)

What can schools do?

For Slide 3

Discussion points:

- There are already solutions to make schools more energy-efficient.
- One of the easiest changes we can make is switching to LED lighting, which uses 70% less electricity than traditional bulbs.
- Imagine how much energy and money we could save just by making that one change!
- For heating, many schools are moving away from gas boilers and installing heat pumps instead. Heat pumps use renewable energy from the air or ground, making them much more sustainable.
- Another solution is solar panels—some schools have installed them on their roofs to generate their own electricity and reduce reliance on the National Grid.
- But technology alone isn't enough—students play a key role in making energy-saving a habit. That's why your ideas matter!

Activity – Real-world problem solvers

For Slide 4

Discussion points:

Now it's time for you to become energy-saving experts! Imagine our school is wasting too much energy. Your task is to work in teams to come up with three realistic solutions that could help us reduce energy waste and cut our carbon footprint.

Think about everything we've discussed – lighting, heating, computers, and student-led initiatives. Once you have your three best ideas, you'll present them to the class. Then, we'll vote on the most practical and impactful idea. The winning idea could even be shared with our school leadership team!

Give students 10 minutes to brainstorm in groups, then allow presentations.

After voting, discuss how students can take action beyond the classroom.

Get involved! Build your own Eco Pledge Wall!

For Slide 5

Discussion points:

"Now that we've explored solutions, how can we make sure real change happens?"

- One way is by starting an **Eco-Leaders Club**. This would be a group of students responsible for tracking energy use in school, raising awareness, and working with teachers to push for sustainable changes.
- Another idea is to work with school leadership to suggest practical changes – like reducing unnecessary printing, switching off unused equipment, or investing in LED lighting.

Inspire action:

Finally, why not spread the word?

Social media, newsletters, and school assemblies are great ways to get more people involved. Schools across the UK are taking part in the Let's Go Zero campaign, working towards Net Zero goals.

Let's watch the video to see how other schools are making a difference: [Net Zero Schools Guide – Let's Go Zero](#)

Closing call to action

For Slide 6

Discussion points:

We've learned today that schools use a huge amount of energy, but we also have the power to change that. If every school in the UK took small steps to cut energy waste, the impact would be massive!

Whether it's switching off lights, reducing heating waste, or coming up with creative student-led initiatives, every action counts. So, let's work together to make our school part of the Net Zero journey!

Encourage students to clap and cheer to close the assembly!

More encouragement about energy:

- ✓ **School-wide Energy Challenge:** Track energy use for a week and see which class saves the most.
- ✓ **Student-led research:** Investigate how much energy the school currently uses and present findings to leadership.
- ✓ **Sustainability newsletter:** Feature student-led initiatives and updates on school energy savings.