

# How Much Electricity Do We Use?

When you are on a trip and the vehicle you are in is travelling at 100 km per hour count the number of power poles you pass in 3 minutes (this will be 5 kilometres in distance).

Find out the number of "road" kilometres you will travel on this trip.

## Answer the following questions:

1. How many power poles did you count in 3 minutes? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many power poles will that mean in 10km? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many road kilometres will you travel on this trip? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Approximately how many poles will you pass on your whole trip? \_\_\_\_\_

## When I was a boy!

Talk to an adult about the changes in energy usage in their life time. In particular, ask about how they used energy when they were young and how they use it now. Also ask them if their attitude towards saving energy was different when they were young compared to now, and if so, how has it changed?

**Think about how this might be different to how you use energy. Write your answers below.**

## Now and Then ...

Think about how much “energy” we consume these days as compared to when your parents and grandparents were children. It will help if you talk to a range of adults and ask them what “life was like when they were children”.

### Consider the following:

1. How many vehicles (cars, motorbikes etc) does your family own?
2. How many did your parents/grandparents family own when they were children?
3. How do you travel around your town, your country and the world?
4. How does this differ from:
  - 10 years ago?
  - 50 years ago?
  - 100 years ago?
5. List all the electrical/gas appliances (entertainment, cooling, heating, lighting, cooking, cleaning) you have in your home?
6. Were these items available and, if not, what did they use instead:
  - 10 years ago?
  - 50 years ago?
  - 100 years ago?
7. If there was no electricity or gas or petrol how would you:
  - Have light in your house?
  - Communicate with a friend?
  - Take a hot bath or shower?
  - Store food in summer?
  - Cook food?
  - Get to the 10th floor of a building?
  - Wash your clothes?
  - Keep warm or keep cool?
  - Travel to school or the next town or overseas?