

Teacher's background information

Communicate

It is becoming increasingly recognised that it is vital in education to have students communicate with each other, their teacher and those outside of the classroom.

Communicate provides students with this opportunity by enabling them to communicate their energy saving findings, experiences and data to others in a creative and fun way.

They can do this after completing Calculate by telling the story about how much *could* be saved. Alternatively, students can complete Calculate and Conserve and tell the story of how much they *actually* saved.

In Communicate, students will:

- utilise information and skills learnt in previous sections of the Home Energy Project
- take an active role in their own learning
- understand the processes behind developing and producing a presentation
- develop skills and gain experience in presenting to an audience.

Activity and assignment

Communicate consists of one section with an activity that can be completed over two class lessons (at a minimum). It has strong connections to the curriculum framework (see pages 6–11) and provides an excellent opportunity to work across curricula.

Communicate also provides a variety of ideas for presentations that can be used as inspiration (see presentation ideas, page 65).

Section	Objective
Section 10 Planning your presentation	To reinforce the concepts learnt in previous sections of the Home Energy Project. To develop creative ways of communicating energy saving ideas to the community. To learn useful communication skills.

Presentation team

Students can complete Communicate alone (the individual student may want to focus on their own energy team's experiences), as a pair, in groups (perhaps other students will have similar points they want to communicate) or as a whole class (they may wish to communicate their overall experiences and findings).

Teachers will need to decide in which ways they would like students to complete this activity. Be sure to inform students of their options at the commencement of Activity 10.

Audiences for presentations

Students will need to decide who their audience will be. The teacher should assist students to do this by explaining how to select the appropriate audience. The choice will be based on the time available, content of the students' presentation and any other individual and/or school circumstances.

The options are endless. Some schools may have already established programs with the wider community, enabling them to quickly and easily identify a suitable and willing audience.

Some additional suggestions for potential audiences are:

- parents or the energy team
- the local primary school
- students, families and friends at the school's speech night
- community organisations
- the local council
- senior citizens
- Probus, Rotary or Apex Clubs.

As energy conservation is generally considered an important issue it should not be difficult to interest local papers, radio and television stations in coming to the school to do stories on students engaged in innovative activities. Such projects can offer great rewards for students' efforts. Thus, while students' activities around energy conservation are a great way to get students working together on a common goal, they are also potentially newsworthy.

The participation awards

The participation awards provide teachers, students and schools with an opportunity to showcase their Communicate presentations and participate in regional competitions that give them the chance to receive substantial awards.

For further information refer to page 12.