Guidance for leaders

Design an app activity

Community mapping – Safety – Energy efficiency

Energy efficiency

Please watch the 'Being energy smart' video on the UK Power Networks partnership page to guide you through some simple ways to improve your energy efficiency.

Your young people can use these ideas to add to the energy efficiency tab of their app:

- Use full loads in washing machines and dishwashers
- Where possible, use eco setting or lower temperatures
- Only fill your kettle as much as needed
- Don't put your appliances on standby; turn them off instead
- Change to LED bulbs: they last longer and use less electricity
- Set your thermostat between 18°C and 21°C
- Turn off lights when not in use
- Regularly bleed your radiators
- Install thick curtains and draught excluders.
- Shop around and check your tariff with other energy providers
- Request a Smart Meter from your energy supplier for more accurate bills

Ask your young people to think about what they could do differently at home, and what key information on energy efficiency they could talk to their parents about.

Did you know?
Heating uses the most electricity in a household.

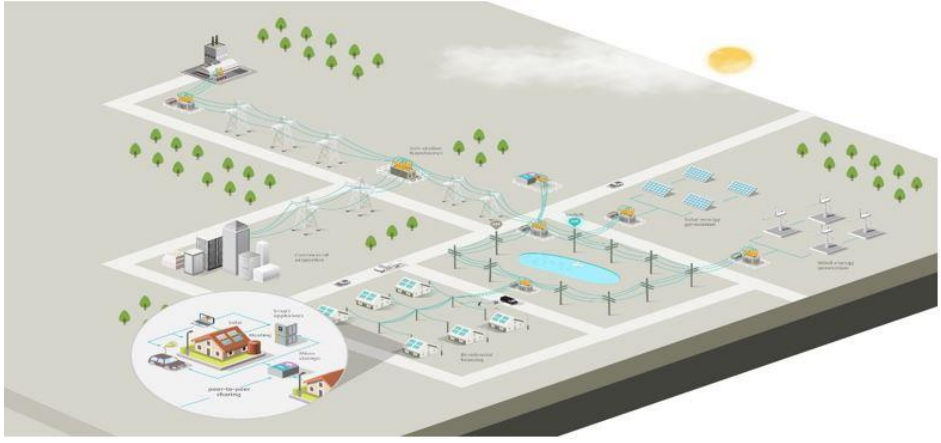
Did you know?
Laptops are much cheaper to run than desktop computers. Desktops cost around £26 a year to run, whereas a laptop only costs around £4 a year.

Safety

The guide below provides key safety information that can be included on the app. Your young people can be creative with this process. They may choose to design a short video, a safety animation, a storyboard or written instructions.

The electric journey

Power lines criss-cross the country carrying electricity for trains, factories, our homes, schools, community buildings, and to light our streets. Sometimes these power lines are carried high above the ground, and sometimes they're buried under the ground – especially near towns and cities.
Substations are used to change the voltage of the electricity so it reaches homes and businesses at a safe level.



Stay safe near substations

Substations are found frequently in residential areas, near to homes, schools and businesses, supplying us with electricity. Substations come in different sizes depending on the number and type of properties they serve. The voltages going through the equipment range from 11,000 to 400,000 volts. They're usually securely fenced off.

Key safety information

- Substations are safe for the public if you remain outside the perimeter fencing and don't enter them.
- Only electricity company employees and their contractors should access substations.
- If you notice a door, fence or gate unlocked or damaged, contact UK Power Networks straight away on the emergency number displayed on the warning sign, or call 105.
- If you lose any personal property – for example, a ball – in or on a substation, never go in to get it, and keep others away.
- Never use long objects to try to poke the item free – high voltage electricity will travel through metal and wood.
- Contact with electricity can seriously injure or kill. Contact the local distribution company and they'll recover your property for you safely. Never recover any lost property yourself. Call your local distribution company on 105 or the telephone number on the danger of death sign.

What information should you provide?

- The name or number of the substation (normally found on the fence above the sign) or the name of the road the substation is on.
- If the substation is damaged, stay away and explain what the damage is.
- What property you have lost.
- Your contact details.

What does this sign mean, and where would you see it?

Safety when camping, caravanning and taking part in recreational activities

Overhead power lines

Overhead power lines are often uninsulated (bare) and can carry high voltages. They can look like telephone wires, but never assume this is the case. Most overhead power lines are supported by poles – look out for the danger of death signs.

Trees, fishing rods, tent poles, string, ropes and water can all conduct electricity. Look up, look out – stay safe.

Before setting up camp, going fishing, kite flying or climbing trees, it's important that you look up and look out for overhead power lines. Remember, contact with electricity can serious injure or kill.

Key safety information

- Stay well away from any power lines in the vicinity of the campsite you're intending to use. Avoid pitching your tent or caravan directly under or close to overhead power lines.

- Be particularly aware when erecting TV aerials or radio masts next to mobile homes or fixed caravans.

- Always carry long objects such as tent poles and fishing rods horizontally and parallel with the ground, and always 'look up and look out' before putting them together and using them. You don't even have to touch the lines, as electricity can jump across gaps.

- Remember, metal and carbon fibre tent poles, flag poles, guy lines, marquee ropes, TV aerial poles, yacht masts, kites and almost every other long object can conduct electricity if they come into contact with the lines.

- Never attach or tie anything to power line wooden poles, pylons or electrical equipment.

- If your rod or kite makes contact with an overhead line, never attempt to retrieve it, and keep others well away. Always contact the local distribution company by calling 105 to report it.

- Remember, overhead lines are more difficult to see in low light conditions.

- If you see a hazard, always report it to 105.

- Take care in car parks and access routes, as there may be overhead lines near by.

Look for the signs

Electricity poles, pylons and substations usually have yellow danger of death notices on them.
Never ignore the warning signs and stay well away from the marked area. Occasionally, signs get knocked over or vandalised, so do your own checks and always check for overhead power lines yourself.

If in doubt, stop

If there are lines near where you're setting up your tent, awning or caravan, stay away from them. Find somewhere else to enjoy your recreational activities.

It's very difficult to tell telephone and electricity lines apart. Never assume the line is a telephone line. Always assume that all overhead lines carry live electricity and are dangerous.

If you have any doubt, contact your local distribution operator or the site owner, who can contact them if they're unsure.

What additional information could the owner of the campsite, recreational area or fishery provide?

- Locations of signage.
- Posters and information about the site and any overhead power lines.
- Site owners have a responsibility to ensure that members of the public using the facilities are warned of any dangers that may exist. They should make sure that signs highlighting the dangers are in place and maintained.

Could you include any other links to sites with electricity safety information that could be used on the app?

Use this infographic to inform key safety details that could be included on the safety tab.