



# eco'tude

changing your schools ecological attitude

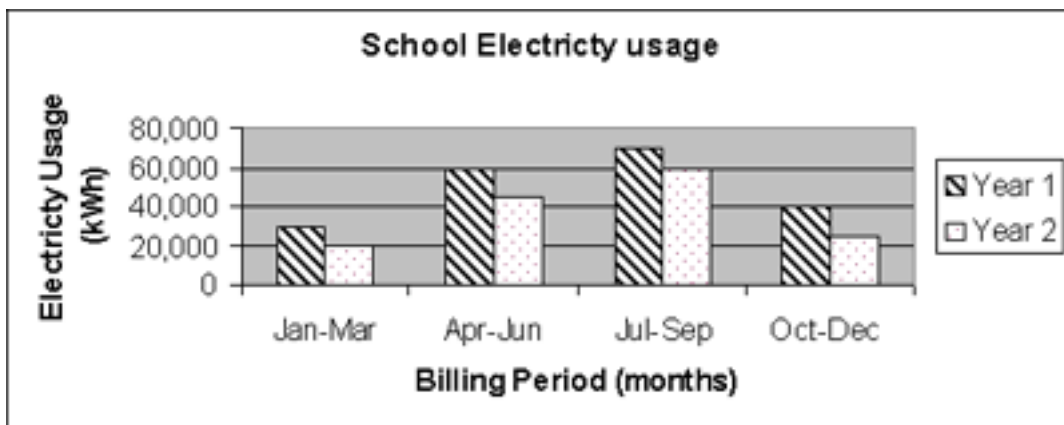
## Historical Bill Audit

### What you are auditing?

You will be calculating the annual usage of water, electricity and gas in your school.

### Why are you auditing it?

Collecting this kind of data is useful for you to have an understanding of your school's ongoing usage of resources and the associated costs. This is commonly known as setting a "baseline". An example of an electricity use baseline is shown by 'year 1' in the graph below (note your school's graph may look different!). This type of audit is also useful for you to see the results of any action that you may undertake. For example, after implementing a "turn of the lights" campaign in the second year the schools energy usage has reduced, as seen by the 'year 2' line.



### How do you do it?

1. You will need to obtain copies of the school's water, gas and electricity bills for at least the last year. Remember to seek the relevant permission.
2. From the bills record and graph usage over time. In most cases the bills are quarterly, but they can also be monthly, half yearly or annually.
3. Calculate the annual water (kL), gas (kJ) and electricity (kWh) usage. Note that you should not simply multiply a quarterly bill by four.
4. Record your results into your Eco'tude journal.
5. Enter your results into the online calculator. How has the footprint changed from your best guess trial.
6. Think about what contributes to the usage trends in your school.

## Taking it further

1. From the bills record and graph cost over time.
2. For each quarterly (or other billing period) energy bill calculate the following information:
  - Daily Use (kWh/Day)  
= total energy use per quarter ÷ number of billing days per quarter
  - Personal Daily Use (kWh/person/day)  
= daily use ÷ size of school population
  - Daily Cost (\$)  
= total cost per quarter ÷ number of billing days per quarter
  - Personal Daily Cost (\$/person/day)  
= daily cost ÷ school population

Repeat for water and gas usage.

Do the same for your household bills. How does it compare?

3. If you have access to bills for more than the last year you might like to graph these as well. What trends can you see?
4. The bills only provide the overall usage for the period that they cover. Conduct a meter audit to identify daily usage patterns.
5. Visit the website of your resource providers. How is the resource produced? Do they have an company environmental policy or statement?