

What Happens When We Use Too Much? Facilitator Guide

Lesson plan topic: What Happens When We Use Too Much?

Recommended grade level: 4th/5th grade

Link to lesson plan:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGvyDUf-HI/9_gPMnNUEEExPkQleiynRHg/view?utm_content=DAGvyDUf-HI&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utmId=ha8a5083b68

Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Explain what pollution is and how it affects our planet
- Understand how using too much energy causes problems like global warming and dirty air
- Describe how this affects people, animals, and the environment
- Recognize how renewable energy helps prevent pollution
- Share ideas for how we can all protect the planet

This facilitator guide is designed to help you lead the lesson plan on *What Happens When We Use Too Much?* For many of the slides, you can read directly from the slide. For slides with bolded bullet points in the slide deck, additional speaking notes or activities are listed.

Slides

Slide 1: Title Slide – What Happens When We Use Too Much?– read from slide

Slide 2: What Is Pollution?— read from slide

- Ask: “Have you ever seen trash outside or smoke in the air?”
- Say: “Pollution can hurt animals, people, and plants. It can come from trash, smoke, or chemicals.”

Slide 3: How Does Energy Cause Pollution?— read from slide

Slide 4: What Happens to Air and Water?— read from slide

- Ask: “Where do you think pollution goes when we can’t see it anymore?”
- Say: “Even if we don’t see it, pollution can travel far and end up in rivers, lakes, or oceans.”

Slide 5: What Is Global Warming?— read from slide

Slide 6: How Are People and Animals Affected?— read from slide

- Ask: “Can you name some animals that live in water or forests?”
- Say: “When we pollute, animals may lose their homes and people might have trouble breathing.”

Slide 7: How Do Renewables Help?— read from slide

Slide 8: Why Should We Care?— read from slide

- Ask: “What are some ways you can help the planet stay clean and healthy?”
- Say: “Even small actions—like turning off lights or picking up trash—make a big difference.”

Slide 9: Conclusion – read from slide

- Ask: “What’s one thing that surprised you about using too much energy?”

Slides 10-18: Quiz

- Have students hold up fingers (1 = A, 2 = B, etc.)
- Let them explain why they chose their answer
- Reveal correct answer and explain it

Post-lesson activity suggestions

- **My Clean Planet Drawing** – Students draw one action they can take to help the Earth. Invite volunteers to share.
- **Act It Out** – In small groups, students act out a pollution problem and their solution.
- **Video Reflection** – Watch a short video about pollution or clean energy. Ask: “What did you notice?” and “What can we do?”

If you have feedback on how to improve this lesson or future lesson plans, please email:

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If you have ideas for future topics, feel free to email us as well.

This lesson plan was designed by high school and college students in the student-led organization *For Every Child*. Thank you for using our lesson — we hope you and your students enjoyed it!