Saving Electricity

**Purpose of Activity:** To inform residents about different ways to conserve electricity

**Materials Needed:**
- Tips provided
- Fabric backing (butcher paper if needed)
- Decorations

**Content:**

1. **Kitchen**
   a. Wash only full loads of dishes
   b. Don’t use disposable plates, cups or silverware
      i. So much energy used to produce and ship, only to be thrown away. Reusable versions, in the long run, use less energy

2. **Sunlight**
   a. Use natural light during the day
   b. When it is cool outside, open your drapes to let the sun help warm the room

3. **Climate Control**
   a. Use fans instead of cranking your AC. Be sure to turn them off when you leave
   b. Two up, two down
      i. Turn thermostat up two degrees in summer, down two degrees in winter

4. **Efficiency**
   a. Use LED lights instead of incandescent bulbs
   b. Buy Energy Star rated microwaves, fridges, and other small appliances. They are more energy efficient

5. **Laundry**
   a. Wash only full loads of laundry
   b. Wash clothes in cold water
      i. Much of the energy used to wash clothing is used to heat the water, not run the machine
   c. Separate wash loads into light and heavy fabrics
      i. You can dry the light fabrics in less time
      ii. Consider hang drying your lightest fabrics
   d. Clean the dryer lint filter every time to promote efficiency

6. **Showers**
   a. Shorten showers
      i. It not only saves water, but it saves energy used to heat the water

7. **Electronics**
   a. Consider investing in a laptop—they use less energy than desktop computers
b. Unplug your phone or laptop as soon as it is fully charged
   i. it will save electricity and your battery life

c. Only replace your phone or other electronics when they are broken, not because your contract is up
d. Plug electronics into a power strip. Then you have one switch to flip when you leave and you won’t be losing vampire energy

8. Food
a. Buy local food—it has used much less energy to get to you
b. Eat less meat
c. Avoid frozen food—it uses much more energy to stay that way compared to fresh food