

Lights and Technology



One of the greatest producers of greenhouse gas emissions is the generation of electricity. Do you know how electricity is made?

From natural gas and coal! These are burned to create heat, which boils water and creates hot pressurized gas that produces electricity. Currently 30 percent of our energy is created through coal burning power plants. When coal is burned to make power, it release CO₂ into the air. It takes 8,943 lbs of coal to run a house for 1 year. That's more than the weight of a female African Elephant!

Now imagine how much more coal is needed for your whole block. If we use less energy, we will need to burn less coal. So what can we do at home to save energy?

Choose to do your work near a window if possible.

- Natural Light is important. It keeps you happy and healthy! On the next page, see if you can identify which sources of light are natural, and which are manmade.

Unplug devices when not in use.

- Using less electricity reduces your carbon footprint! Some appliances use energy even when they are not turned on. So unplug devices when they aren't being used. Bonus: create signs or reminders for each device and place it nearby so your whole family remembers to save energy!

If every student staying home used natural light from the sun for 3 hours a day vs manmade light by turning on a lamp, we could save XYZ lbs of CO₂.



DO YOU THINK EACH LIGHT SOURCE IS NATURAL OR MANMADE?



NATURAL

MANMADE



REMOTE HIKE AND LEARN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT YOU ARE SAVING.
PARK YOURSELF ON YOUR COUCH!



Big Cypress National Preserve

Light up the skies at Cypress!

Big Cypress National Preserve is a United States National Preserve located in South Florida, about 45 miles west of Miami on the Atlantic coastal plain. The 720,000-acre Big Cypress became one of the first national preserves in the United States National Park System when they were established in 1974. Take a virtual visit by watching this PBS show about the preserve with panthers, snakes and alligators.

Big Cypress National Preserve has been designated an International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) International Dark Sky Place. With the extent of urbanization in the eastern United States it is becoming nearly impossible to experience the night with little impact from artificial light pollution. Here in south Florida, away from the urban development of the east and west coasts, Big Cypress National Preserve has one of the last protected night skies where visitors can still enjoy the splendor of the Milky Way and see a night-sky strewn with thousands of stars with only the naked eye. so turn off your lights and take a look

How Big Cypress embraces lights and technology sustainability.

- They changed all their lighting to meet IDA standards and limit light pollution.
- They regularly host astronomy programs.