



## LOCAL BUSINESS INTERVIEW

### ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Students will break into groups and choose a local business in their area to interview about their efforts to be energy efficient. After the interview, students will work to present their findings to the class and discuss the differences and similarities between their findings.

### GOALS/OBJECTIVES

This activity allows students to use their interpersonal skills in the context of energy efficiency. By getting involved with their local community, they'll feel empowered and get a sense of what it means to be part of the Generation E movement.

### LESSON PLAN

#### What you'll need:

- Notebook
- Business questions
  1. What are you doing to make your business more energy efficient?
  2. Have you made any recent changes or upgrades to save energy at your businesses?
  3. Do you have energy-efficient LED lighting?
  4. Do you have lighting controls installed, like dimmers, motion sensors, and occupancy sensors?



5. Are the windows dual- or triple-pane?
6. Are the window seals and door weather stripping in good condition? Are they free of cracks and leaks?
7. What type of heating system do you use? Do you know if it's energy efficient? Do you know how old your heating system is?
8. Have you had your HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system serviced and cleaned lately?
9. Is the office equipment (computers, printers, copier, coffee maker, fridge, microwave, etc.) ENERGY STAR certified?
10. Are the kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators low-flow?

## Instructions:

1. Break students into groups (maximum 4 per group).
2. Have students brainstorm businesses in your area that could benefit from an energy efficiency interview.
3. Each group should choose one local business they'd like to contact to do an interview. They'll contact this local business to ask if they could come into their building and conduct an energy efficiency interview for their Generation E program at school.
4. Once the business approves, students will schedule a day to do the interview. They'll meet with the business owner, manager, or other employees and ask them questions about the energy efficiency of their business.
5. Once the interview is complete, the groups will present their findings to the class. Students can discuss if there are any similarities between



businesses and come up with ways in which these businesses could improve their energy efficiency.