



## LightsOut Ohio 2010 Frequently Asked Question



### About Program Implementation

**Are you asking that all lights in the building be turned off?**

No. Only those lights you would consider to be non-essential. Classrooms still need to function and hallways still need to be safe to navigate. And some areas in some schools just don't have enough natural lighting. But schools typically find that at least some lighting can be turned down both in classrooms and in hallways, especially where there are windows.

**How long do we need to have the lights off?**

At least one class period or one hour. In previous years, some schools initially planned to have non-essential lights off for only the first hour, but then decided they could easily function this way for the entire day.

**Is the LightsOut program only for certain grade levels?** No. It has been designed for all grade levels. It is up to each district as to where they may want to implement the program.

**Can participation be on a classroom-to-classroom basis instead of a whole building?** Yes, but to get the full benefit of the program, it is best to get the participation in as much of the school as possible.

**What about conserving energy used in other applications, such as computers?**

We encourage schools to find as many ways to conserve and use energy more efficiently as is practical.

**Are there other activities in which the students will get a broader understanding of the environmental impact of their actions?**

ABSOLUTELY! The LightsOutOhio.org web site provides schools with optional lessons and activities both for the classroom and as take-home assignments. These activities, selected by our advisory group of local educators, are meant to be both educational and engaging. We also have reviewed and selected interactive web-based energy saving calculators that show how easy it is to reduce both energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions.

**How does a school qualify to enter the Student Energy Savers grant drawing?** For 2010, Sierra Club and LightsOut Ohio will be providing a single \$5,000 grant for an energy saving investment to a school building. In order for the school to enter the drawing, they must comply with a minimum level of participation. For details, please visit <http://www.LightsOutOhio.org/ses.htm>.

**Is Participation in the Student Energy Savers grant drawing mandatory for a school to participate in LightsOut Ohio?** No. However, we recommend that the school registers at the LightsOutOhio.org website even if they are not participating in Student Energy Savers, so that they can get updates and reminders as Earth Day approaches.

### About Environmental Impact

**Does turning off lights for one hour really have a positive environmental impact?**

Yes and No. LightsOut Ohio shows participants how easily they can reduce energy consumption and contribute to a healthier planet by making minor, simple modifications in their long-term behavior. It's an easy step to start a long journey. We all need to realize that our personal actions impact the environment, that we all have a personal responsibility to protect the environment and that we all can have an impact.

**If everyone turns their lights back on at the same time, will it cause a power surge that could create power outages?** No. Our electric utilities have to deal with occasional power outages in which electric usage jumps back on in large spurts. Plus, we are not asking that all electric usage ceases for a period of time, and then is turned back on. We ask that people curtail a portion of their electrical usage – the non-essential portion.

### About the LightsOut Organization

**Who runs the LightsOut Ohio program?** LightsOut Ohio was established and is run by the volunteers of the local Sierra Club Portage Trail Group serving the Akron, Canton and surrounding areas.

**Is the LightsOut program only for schools?** No. LightsOut Ohio reaches out to workplaces and homes as well.