

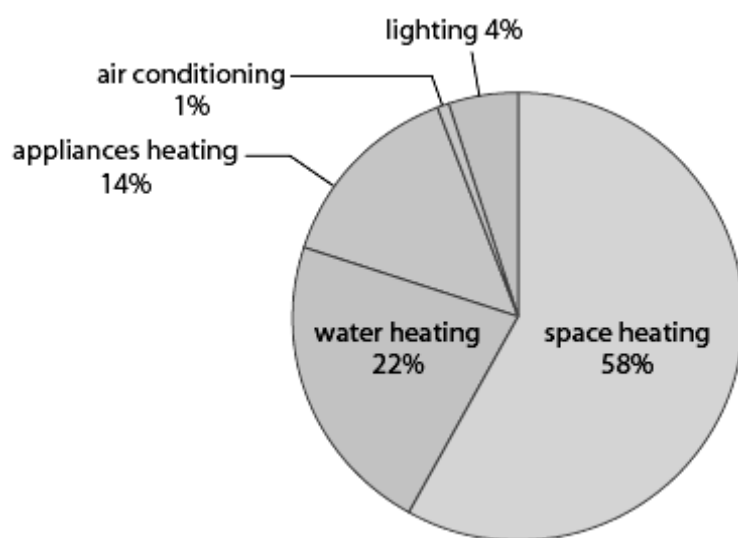
## CHAPTER 10

## HANDOUT

## BLM 10.2.2

# Thought Lab 10.1: Improving Energy Efficiency at Home

In Canada, approximately 80% of the energy used in our homes is used to heat water and the air. The next largest category of energy consumers is appliances, which includes washing machines, dishwashers, and televisions. (The graph below summarizes energy use in homes by category.) Canadians also use a great deal of energy getting from place to place. All forms of transportation account for 25% of all energy use. Automobiles account for 39% of that 25%.



Most of the energy used in our homes is for heating. The Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) was established in 1998 as part of Natural Resources Canada. The OEE helps Canadians improve energy efficiency through a variety of programs aimed at both individuals and businesses. These programs include educational programs, such as EnerGuide and ENERGY STAR®, and significant rebates and cash incentives for individuals and businesses that switch to more energy-efficient options. In this Thought Lab, you will take a look at ways to improve how efficiently you use energy.

## Procedure

1. Divide into groups of three or four students. Each group will concentrate on one category of residential energy use. Your teacher will assign the category.
2. In your group, brainstorm to obtain a list of all the ways in which you use energy in the assigned category during your day.

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3. Perform an Internet search to obtain the following background information:
  - the amount of energy consumed by that activity
  - ideas to help decrease the quantity of energy used in that activity. These ideas should be grouped into two categories:
    - changes in behaviour that would decrease the total amount of energy required
    - technology that can be used to improve energy efficiency while not limiting the activity in any way
  - possible energy and monetary savings: include any special offers and rebates that are currently available
4. Organize your findings and display them on a web page, in a pamphlet, or on a poster that links to or connects with those from other groups and can be used to market this information to the rest of the school.

### Analysis

1. Using the results from all the groups, make a list of energy-saving tips that you are willing to implement. Perform a cost–benefit analysis for each tip.

