

Activity Preparation Guide for

eMonitor Scavenger Hunt

What if we could “see” how electricity is being used in our home at this very minute?

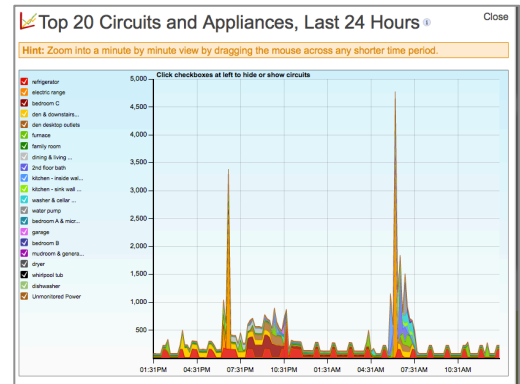
Advance Preparation Materials & Procedures

- eMonitor Scavenger Hunt Handout (Appendix)


1. Make copies of eMonitor Scavenger Hunt
2. Check Internet connectivity and site access

Activity Supplies

- Station Card (2)
- Computers with Internet access (4)
- Power strip
- Extension cord
- Copies of eMonitor Scavenger Hunt (1 per family)
- Pencils



Activity Steps



eMonitor Scavenger Hunt

What if we could “see” how electricity is being used in our home at this very minute?

1. Login to the eMonitor website:
<https://staging.emonitor.us>
username: PowerSleuth
password: mmsa12
2. Select a home to investigate using the “Switch Location” pull down menu in the upper right hand corner of the web page.
3. Answer the scavenger hunt questions found on the handout at this station.
4. In what way does this tool help homeowners understand how electricity is used in the home?

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The adage “You can’t manage what you don’t measure” is especially fitting for electricity use. Home electricity monitors, such as the one featured at this station, not only aid the homeowner’s ability to measure use but measure use as it occurs and in this case, provide circuit by circuit detail. For the consumer, this ability to access real-time use translates into increased awareness and more informed choices about when and how electricity is used in the home.

Presently Maine’s largest electricity supply companies have joined utility companies across the country in upgrading the electrical grid system. This upgrade includes the installation of “smart” electricity meters. Soon customers with smart meters will be able to view their homes’ per hour electricity use online. The data provided by smart meters will help customers monitor their electricity use patterns and make adjustments to how much and when they use power to avoid using electricity during times of heavy demand on the electrical system (known as “peak” hours). Decreasing electricity use during times of peak demand is a powerful way to reduce both electricity and environmental costs. During times of peak demand, less efficient power plants are brought online. These plants are both more costly to operate and have greater environmental impacts.

Please turn card back over when finished

Variations and Extensions

- Encourage families to contact their local utility company for the latest information about accessing information about their electrical usage online.