

SWITCH



SWITCH EXERCISE AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

Maximize the learning experience with these ideas, tested with success at schools and universities across the country:

View and Discuss

Arrange a panel, Q&A session or group discussion following the film. To continue the nonpartisan, balanced perspective of *Switch*, be sure your panel is diverse, with experts from different disciplines and backgrounds.

"I took my students to a screening of Switch and we spent most of the following class discussing it, a testament to its value as an educational tool."

– Amy Jaffe, Rice University Energy Program

Brief Report with Web Research and Discussion

Assign students to write a 1- to 2-page essay on the film, supplemented by research on the *Switch* website after viewing. Frame an open discussion around their reactions.

"The paper assignment encouraged a more attentive viewing of the film, inspired the students to reassess their preconceptions and made for exciting discussions."

– Chris Bell, University of Texas at Austin

Incorporate *Switch* Videos into Coursework

Switch is the world's only video library devoted to energy with nearly 300 short videos organized by resource and topic. Select those that relate to your discipline and incorporate into lesson plans or assignments.

"The expert interviews are a wonderful teaching resource. They facilitate discussion on every important energy topic."

– Tyler Priest, University of Iowa

Teach Energy and Efficiency

Energy relates to every discipline. Take a class, or 20 minutes after the film, to discuss the unexpected ways energy influences the course subject and the benefits energy efficiency can bring.

"My students came away with the belief that everyone can and should take action, and that they have a role in the energy future."

– Laura Guertin, Penn State Brandywine

Lead an Efficiency Drive at Your School

Efficiency is the most important step we can take in energy, and a way we can all make a difference starting today. Consider organizing an efficiency drive at your school through our partners, IDEAS (www.ideasforus.org) or the Campus Conservation Nationals (www.competetoreduce.org).

"It provides the perfect venue for students to demonstrate how their collective drive, paired with individual action and responsibility, can have a significant impact."

– Pat Lane, US Green Building Council



SWITCH EXERCISE AND DISCUSSION GUIDE Continued

Discussion Questions

1. What in the film surprised you and why?
2. List and discuss some of the many benefits of energy efficiency.
3. Why are our personal actions toward energy efficiency and conservation so important?
4. What delays efficiency measures and why can they be slow to have an impact?
5. What are your thoughts on how the film measures and compares energy resources by the number of people (average global citizen) each would power in a year?
6. What was your impression of the scale of energy consumption and production?
7. What does it mean to clean up coal? Can we afford to?
8. Did the film change your perspective on oil demand, supply and price?
9. Why do various countries consume such different mixes of energy?
10. How will the developing world change global energy consumption and the resources used?
11. How are the environmental impacts of energy perceived in different parts of the world?
12. What current and future biofuels technologies are discussed in the film? Which were not?
13. Where would we get the electricity to power a huge fleet of electric cars? Why is this important?
14. In what ways can natural gas be used as an energy resource? Why is fuel versatility important?
15. What are the two kinds of solar, and how do they differ?
16. What are the biggest challenges for large scale solar development?
17. How does geothermal electricity generation work?
18. What are the benefits and challenges for wind power?
19. How do we consume electricity over the course of the day? Why is this so important?
20. How would the ability to store electricity in huge utility-scale quantities change our electricity consumption and production?
21. What are the benefits and challenges for nuclear power? What forms of nuclear are not discussed in the film?
22. Why do energy transitions take time?
23. Were there any emerging energy technologies you would have liked to see in the film? And what are the benefits and challenges of each?
24. What should be the role of government in energy?
25. How can governments, industry, academics and other groups best work with the public to improve our energy future?