

**I Have the Power:**  
**5 Ways I Can Keep My Bermuda Clean**  
**And My Energy Green**

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## **I Have the Power:**

### **5 Ways I Can Keep My Bermuda Clean And My Energy Green**

Some scientists believe that if we don't change the ways we make energy by the year 2050, we will run out of fossil fuels and really badly damage our planet. If you listen to Professor David MacKay, from Cambridge University (Scientific American, October 2011, online link), change needs to happen on a huge basis. There are things that I can do on my own to save energy. Each thing I do will be small, but can make a difference, especially if I tell other people about it too.

One thing I can do is to use less gasoline. I can use public transport, such the bus or ferry. I can carpool to football games and other activities. My dad has brought in an electric powered bike that you partly pedal and partly charge a battery for. I can't wait to be 18 so I can ride it!

I can use less electricity in my house. I turn off lights when I leave a room. I am trying to be careful with "vampire" energy – turning off devices that use standby power when I don't need them. I actually unplug my DS charger, and I turn off the power bar for the Wii and TV when I am not using them.

Heating water takes a lot of energy. Instead, I have solar panels to heat my water. I can also use as little hot water as possible by having shorter showers. My dad installed timers on the hot water heaters this winter, because the solar panels don't work as well in the winter. In the summer the heaters don't need to be on at all, but in the winter they can be on only when we need hot water.

The kind of light bulbs you want are the compact fluorescent ones. They use only 23 watts of energy and last for 10,000 hours, compared to the old ones that use 100 watts for the same brightness, and last for just 750 hours. (Matson, John, Buying a Better Bulb, Scientific American, January 2012). Every time an old kind of bulb dies, we put a new energy-saving bulb in instead.

One other thing I do is kind of brown, rather than green! I have chickens that lay yummy eggs. This saves power because I fed them kitchen scraps instead of throwing food away. I also do not need to drive to the grocery store to get eggs.

Energy can be measured in kilowatt hours; that's what we want to reduce. What do you think will happen when the fossil fuels run out? Save fossil fuel and lower the electricity bill... now that's a nice way to save.

I am one person but I can make a difference