

The Adventure of the Energy Phantom Transcript

Wattson and Detective Volts are in their office.

Wattson

Hello? Hello? Yo Volts we got a problem. Volts! Some lady just called and she says she has a really high energy bill.

Detective Volts

How High?

Wattson

Real high! But that's not the only problem. There are other consequences.

Detective Volts

Come again?

Wattson

Environmental consequences...

Detective Volts

I don't understand.

Wattson

Let me just show you.

Detective Volts

So what's on the board.

Wattson

Let me show you, Detective Volts. This is the Earth, home to more than six-and-a-half billion people. When sunlight hits the Earth's surface, some of it is reflected back into space as heat. Greenhouse Gases absorb this heat and trap it in the Earth's atmosphere. This is a normal process keeping us warm at night. The gas we have right now in our atmosphere is several times the amount we had 200 years ago. This means that the atmosphere is absorbing more heat than it needs causing droughts, hurricanes, floods, the displacement of animals and a general change in our ecosystem. The main culprits are fossil fuels used for human activity.

Detective Volts

You mean all human activity uses fossil fuels?

Wattson

Well, the major contributor is energy consumption. This includes using electricity at home, driving your car, and industrial production. The most popular solutions are solar, wind, and geothermal power. These are renewable resources, because they can be used indefinitely without depleting our natural resources. These aren't perfect solutions. The best solution is for everyone to reduce their energy consumption. Everyone can make the change if they want to.

Detective Volts

I'm intrigued. Call in the team.

Wattson
You sure?

Detective Volts
Yeah

Wattson
Yo slick, get over here!

Slick
What's the problem?

Detective Volts
Slick, there you are. Slick, go get some interviews with these Energy Conservation Specialists, see what they know!

Slick
Consider it done!

Detective Volts
Wattson, you're with me

Wattson
Got it.

Credits appear on screen.

Wattson
(coughs)

Detective Volts
The lights!... There's nothing there.

Wattson
Well, actually Volts, in comparison to this incandescent bulb - hold this please - a fluorescent one uses 75% less energy and lasts years longer.

Detective Volts
So?

Wattson
You save money and energy! But make sure to focus them in on places where you're using them, and you should clean them up every once in a while.

Slick near school lockers.

Slick
I came to Victoria Park, to learn about energy conservation methods that can be used in schools.

At Victoria Park Collegiate Institute.

Shannon

Our big project here at Victoria Park is project shutdown where we turn off all the computers in the school overnight, on the weekends, and on Holidays to save as much energy as we can because that is what's using the most energy at the school. Another thing that we're focusing on is getting the teachers to turn off lights if the lights aren't needed especially in the summer because the light shines through the windows so the light aren't needed and you can turn them off.

Detective Volts and Watts in the kitchen.

Detective Volts

Nothing in there...

Watts

Actually, the fridge uses a lot of energy.

Detective Volts

For the lights?

Watts

No, this family made their fridge too cold. And leftovers, they should be left on the counter to cool before you put them in.

Detective Volts

At least they didn't over-stuff it. That blocks cold air circulation.

Watts

Yeah!

Detective Volts and Wattson are at the sink.

Wattson

Wait! Volts! You don't need to rinse your dishes. You can just scrape of the excess food then put it into the dishwasher.

Detective Volts

Why?

Wattson

It saves a lot of water. And make sure your dishwasher is full before you turn it on. And when you do use your dishwasher, you should put it on the Economy or Energy-Saving mode. And don't worry about heat-drying your dishes, you can just dry them by hand.

Slick at the brick wall.

Slick

I went to Gledhill Public School to see what the EcoTigers could teach me about Energy Conservation and the Environment.

At Gledhill Public School.

Student 1

Our class has a compost bin, and instead of putting it in the garbage, we put it in here such as apple cores.

Student 2

Parents, instead of throwing our corks and hangers and batteries, they bring them to Gledhill and we recycle them.

Student 3

Leaving on the lights wastes energy and that's bad for the environment.

Student 4

Cars, since there's so many of them, it creates pollution for the earth.

We see the "No Idling" banner.

View from inside the washing machine.

Wattson

What are you doing?

Detective Volts

I'm testing the efficiency of the washing machine.

Wattson

Actually, it's much more energy efficient to wash a full load of laundry. And did you know that heating water makes up 20% of your energy bill? So you should use cold water instead.

Detective Volts

At least the dryer is working.

Wattson

You should clean out your lint tray after every use...and please only dry a FULL load of laundry. If possible, just air-dry your laundry.

Detective Volts

But it's cold outside.

Wattson

That's why you have a bathroom. This is a great place to air-dry laundry.

They walk to bathroom.

Detective Volts

There are no appliances in here, let's go!

Wattson

Wait! Saving water is saving energy, so the next time you take a shower, make sure it's a maximum of 5 minutes, and when you're using a tap, make sure it's off when you're done!

Slick beside a fence.

Slick

I got in touch with Mark, from Eneract, to get a professional's point of view on home energy use.

Mark

Eneract helps the people of a community by linking them with local entrepreneurs and people who supply these mechanisms and devices for renewable energy. The switch to renewable energy would effect people 18-and-under by creating a standard in their own consciousness in their mind, that this isn't something new and that by the time they get to the age of 40, it will be a standard in society if it's created at a young age. I suggest we should still conserve energy because the cost of non-renewable energy is high and it will lessen the cost to consumers if we conserve energy. Also, the sun is not always going to shine all day and the wind is not always going to blow every day therefore, we are going to have to draw from non-renewable energies. Conserving energy would lessen our dependence on the non-renewable energies of today.

Inside a teenage girl's room.

Teenage Girl

So yeah, when does practice start? Who are you guys?

Detective Volts

Detective Volts, and this is my assistant Wattson.

Teenage Girl

Hi, Watson.

Detective Volts

We're here to investigate the theft of energy.

Teenage Girl

Theft? What theft? I'm not stealing anything.

Wattson

Yeah, but you are using a lot of things at once.

Teenage Girl

Well, I'm a multi-tasker.

Wattson

But that's putting a lot of strain on our fossil fuels.

Teenage Girl

So, what's wrong with that?

Wattson

They have a lot of emissions. You could be doing the environment a favour by only using one thing at a time.

Detective Volts

How's that for multitasking!

Teenage Girl

I guess I can do that.

Detective Volts and Wattson are back at the front door of the house.

Detective Volts

Well, Watts, I think I've solved this case. There was no actual energy thief. If this family just made small adjustments, their energy bill would go way down.

Wattson

Wow, you're so smart, let's go to the office then.

Detective Volts

Great idea.