

Sustainability and Compliance Team

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WINDOW WATCHERS

It's your world... choose to conserve

Approximately two-thirds of a building's energy consumption comes from lighting and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. One simple way you can reduce energy use is to manipulate your blinds properly to take advantage of natural daylight.

Opening the blinds during the heating season can increase the solar gain in the classroom, reducing the demand for energy from the HVAC system. You also will have more natural light available, reducing the need for overhead lighting. To prevent glare and to maximize your natural lighting, simply place the blinds in an upward position to reflect off the ceiling. At the end of the day, blinds should be closed to insulate from the cold.



Opening up the blinds to gain free natural light reduces the need for full overhead lighting.



During the cooling season, it is recommended that blinds be closed or turned upward so that the solar gain is kept at a minimum. Even minimal daylight reduces the need for overhead lighting. Please remember to close the blinds at the end of the day to serve as a thermal barrier.

By assigning a “window watcher” in each room, your students will be modeling responsible environmental stewardship. If you are looking for more environmentally friendly roles and responsibilities, check out the [Three Green Things activity on our website](#); also available in [Spanish](#).