

Resource Smart Choices

Read how one community center manages shared resources.

6.11.B “explain how conservation, increased efficiency, and technology can help manage air, water, soil, and energy resources.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action that manages a resource, then write C, E, or T above it to show whether it is conservation, increased efficiency, or technology.

A Smarter Community Center

- ① Riverton's community center wanted to reduce its use of resources without making the building less useful. Staff began with conservation, which means avoiding unnecessary use. They posted signs asking visitors to turn off lights in empty rooms and to report dripping faucets. Closing a running faucet while soaping hands saves treated water and the energy used to pump and clean it. These choices also leave more water in the local system during dry periods when demand is high.
- ② Next, workers increased efficiency. An efficient device does the same job while using less energy or water. The center replaced old bulbs with LED bulbs, which provide light with less electricity and usually last longer. It also installed low-flow restroom fixtures that deliver enough water for washing while reducing the amount sent down the drain. Using less electricity can lower pollution from power plants that burn fuels, helping protect air quality near the city on some days.
- ③ Technology can help people make better decisions, but it does not replace careful habits. At Riverton, a soil-moisture sensor tells groundskeepers when planting beds actually need water. They can water only dry areas, preventing waste and reducing runoff that can carry loose soil into storm drains. A building control system can adjust heating and cooling when rooms are occupied. Together, conservation, efficiency, and technology manage water, soil, air, and energy resources more wisely each day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Identify two conservation actions in the passage. What resource does each action help manage?

2 How do the LED bulbs and low-flow fixtures increase efficiency?

3 How does the soil-moisture sensor help protect both water and soil?

4 Explain how using less electricity at the center can help manage an air resource.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one place at school, at home, or in your community. Write three sentences that describe one conservation action, one efficiency improvement, and one technology tool that could manage at least one resource.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action that manages a resource, then write C, E, or T above it to show whether it is conservation, increased efficiency, or technology. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify two conservation actions in the passage. What resource does each action help manage?	Turning off lights in empty rooms helps manage energy. Closing a faucet while soaping hands helps manage water. Reporting dripping faucets also helps manage water.
2	How do the LED bulbs and low-flow fixtures increase efficiency?	LED bulbs provide light using less electricity. Low-flow fixtures provide enough water for washing while using less water.
3	How does the soil-moisture sensor help protect both water and soil?	It tells groundskeepers which areas actually need water, so they water only dry areas. This prevents water waste and reduces runoff that can carry loose soil into storm drains.
4	Explain how using less electricity at the center can help manage an air resource.	Using less electricity can lower pollution from power plants that burn fuels, which helps protect air quality.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At our school garden, students could conserve water by collecting rainwater in a barrel for watering plants. The school could increase efficiency by using drip irrigation, which sends water slowly to plant roots. A timer could turn the system on only when needed, helping protect water and soil from runoff. Accept equivalent actions and explanations that correctly distinguish conservation from efficiency and technology. For the open response, each category must be present and the proposed action must reasonably manage air, water, soil, or energy.