Educator How To Hub: Start Here

Add an ENR Lens to Your Lessons

Relevant Learning Levels

✓ Primary ✓ Secondary ✓ Post-Secondary

WHAT IS AN ENR LENS?

An **Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) lens** is an instructional approach that frames classroom content within the context of the six Career and Technical Education (CTE) Energy & Natural Resources (ENR) sub-clusters. Rather than introducing entirely new content, this lens enhances existing lessons by highlighting their relevance to real-world issues and emerging career pathways in the ENR space.

WHY USE IT?

Integrating an ENR lens:

- Deepens student engagement by connecting learning to contemporary global challenges
- Encourages critical thinking about the intersection of science, society, and the environment
- Prepares students for future careers that demand sustainability literacy and systems thinking

Five Steps to Incorporate an ENR Lens Into Your Classroom

1 Spot Natural Tie-Ins

Look at your current lessons—where do energy, land, materials, or environment already show up?

Expand topics with environmental, ethical, or economic angles, especially in ecosystems, industry, agriculture, or urban planning.

2 Carve Out Small Moments

You don't need to overhaul everything. Add a 10-minute case study, debate, or reflection to highlight ENR themes.

3 Ask Real-World Questions

Use prompts like:

- What are the trade-offs here?
- Who's impacted—ecosystems, people, industries?
- How is this managed now, and what needs to change?

4 Link to Careers & Systems Thinking

Get students thinking like ENR pros:

- What would an engineer or policy analyst do with this?
- How does it connect to sustainability, tech, or policy shifts?

5 Add Contextual Content

Bring in short readings, maps, data, or news clips—especially local ones—to ground the topic in real-world ENR issues.

If You Teach… **Career and Technical Education Subjects**

Agriculture:
Teach irrigation and crop management alongside water conservation practices, land restoration, or the role of ecological R&D in sustainable agriculture.

- *ENR lens:* Conservation, Land Management, Resource Use

Construction/Building Trades:
Link insulation, HVAC, or materials use to energy efficiency, LEED certification, and utility management. Introduce green retrofitting or the role of infrastructure in energy distribution.

- *ENR lens:* Energy, Utilities, Environmental Protection

Engineering/Design:
Design projects can focus on grid modernization, autonomous environmental monitoring systems, or innovations in natural resource management (e.g., remote sensing, erosion control).

- *ENR lens:* Utilities, Transmission, Distribution & Storage, Ecological R&D, Environmental Protection

Tip: Use platforms like GetIntoEnergy.com/jobs or local workforce boards to showcase regional ENR careers.

If You Teach… **Core Science**

Biology/Environmental Science:
Explore climate systems, ecosystem resilience, and biodiversity loss through topics like reforestation, land reclamation, and endangered species protection. Connect to conservation science and policy.

- *ENR lens:* Land Management, Environmental Protection, Ecological R&D

Chemistry:
Use water quality testing to introduce pollution control, or examine extraction techniques (e.g., lithium mining, oil refining) to discuss environmental impacts and remediation technologies.

- *ENR lens:* Resource Extraction, Environmental Protection, Utilities

Physics:
When covering energy systems, go beyond renewables and include grid reliability, water-power coupling, and the role of utilities in disaster resilience.

- *ENR lens:* Utilities, Energy, Transmission, Distribution & Storage

Tip: Encourage students to consider the entire energy and resource lifecycle—from extraction, to use, to waste—and the systems responsible for managing it.