

Important Concepts	Alaska Science Content Standard B2 Students develop an understanding that energy appears in different forms, can be transformed from one form to another, can be transferred or moved from one place or system to another, may be unavailable for use, and is ultimately conserved.
Energy	
6-8 Level	

Grade Level Expectations:

The student demonstrates an understanding of how energy can be transformed, transferred, and conserved by:

[6] SB2.1 recognizing that energy can exist in many forms (i.e., heat, light, chemical, electrical, mechanical)

[7] SB2.1 explaining that energy (i.e., heat, light, chemical, electrical, mechanical) can change form

[8] SB2.1 identifying the initial source and resulting change in forms of energy in common phenomena (e.g., sun to tree to wood to stove to cabin heat)

According to AAAS's Benchmarks for Science Literacy*, some of the things that students should know and understand by the end of the eighth grade are:

- Whenever energy appears in one place, it must have disappeared from another. Whenever energy is lost from somewhere, it must have gone somewhere else. Sometimes when energy appears to be lost, it actually has been transferred to a system that is so large that the effect of the transferred energy is imperceptible.
- Energy can be transferred from one system to another (or from a system to its environment) in different ways: 1) thermally, when a warmer object is in contact with a cooler one; 2) mechanically, when two objects push or pull on each other over a distance; 3) electrically, when an electrical source such as a battery or generator is connected in a complete circuit to an electrical device; or 4) by electromagnetic waves.
- Thermal energy is transferred through a material by the collisions of atoms within the material. Over time, the thermal energy tends to spread out through a material and from one material to another if they are in contact. Thermal energy can also be transferred by means of currents in air, water, or other fluids. In addition, some thermal energy in all materials is transformed into light energy and radiated into the environment by electromagnetic waves; that light energy can be transformed back into thermal energy when the electromagnetic waves strike another material. As a result, a material tends to cool down unless some other form of energy is converted to thermal energy in the material.
- Energy appears in different forms and can be transformed within a system. Motion energy is associated with the speed of an object. Thermal energy is associated with the temperature of an object. Gravitational energy is associated with the height of an object above a reference point. Elastic energy is associated with the stretching or compressing of an elastic object. Chemical energy is associated with the composition of a substance. Electrical energy is associated with an

*Project 2061, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Benchmarks for Science Literacy. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

electric current in a circuit. Light energy is associated with the frequency of electromagnetic waves.

- Light and other electromagnetic waves can warm objects. How much an object's temperature increases depends on how intense the light striking its surface is, how long the light shines on the object, and how much of the light is absorbed.