

# Unit 3: What Happens when Energy Moves from One Place to Another?

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **MP3**  
Length: **45 instructional days**  
Status: **Published**

## NJSLS - Science

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9-12.HS-ESS2-1	Develop a model to illustrate how Earth's internal and surface processes operate at different spatial and temporal scales to form continental and ocean-floor features.
9-12.HS-ESS2-4	Use a model to describe how variations in the flow of energy into and out of Earth's systems result in changes in climate.
9-12.HS-ESS2-3	Develop a model based on evidence of Earth's interior to describe the cycling of matter by thermal convection.
9-12.HS-ESS2-5	Plan and conduct an investigation of the properties of water and its effects on Earth materials and surface processes.
9-12.HS-ESS2-2	Analyze geoscience data to make the claim that one change to Earth's surface can create feedbacks that cause changes to other Earth systems.
9-12.HS-PS3-4	Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence that the transfer of thermal energy when two components of different temperature are combined within a closed system results in a more uniform energy distribution among the components in the system (second law of thermodynamics).
9-12.HS-PS3-3	Design, build, and refine a device that works within given constraints to convert one form of energy into another form of energy.
9-12.HS-PS3-1	Create a computational model to calculate the change in the energy of one component in a system when the change in energy of the other component(s) and energy flows in and out of the system are known.

## Science and Engineering Practices

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### Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking

- Create a computational model or simulation of a phenomenon, designed device, process, or system. (HS-PS3-1)

### Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions

- Design, evaluate, and/or refine a solution to a complex real-world problem based on scientific knowledge, student-generated sources of evidence, prioritized criteria, and tradeoff considerations. (HS-PS3-3)

### Planning and Carrying Out Investigations

- Plan and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, me), and refine the design accordingly. (HS-PS3-4, HS-ESS2-5)

## Developing and Using Models

- Develop a model based on evidence to illustrate the relationships between systems or between components of a system. (HS-ESS2-1, HS-ESS2-3)
- Use a model to provide mechanistic accounts of phenomena. (HS-ESS2-4)

## Analyzing and Interpreting Data

- Analyze data using tools, technologies, and/or models (e.g., computational, mathematical) in order to make valid and reliable scientific claims or determine an optimal design solution. (HS-ESS2-2)

## Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence

- Science knowledge is based on empirical evidence. (HS-ESS2-3)
- Science disciplines share common rules of evidence used to evaluate explanations about natural systems. (HS-ESS2-3)
- Science includes the process of coordinating patterns of evidence with current theory. (HS-ESS2-3)
- Science arguments are strengthened by multiple lines of evidence supporting a single explanation. (HS-ESS2-4)

## Disciplinary Core Ideas

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### PS3.A: Definitions of Energy

- Energy is a quantifiable property of a system that depends on the motion and interactions of matter and radiation within that system. There is a single quantity called energy because a system's total energy is conserved, even as, within the system, energy is continually transferred from one object to another and between its various possible forms. (HS-PS3-1)
- At the macroscopic scale, energy manifests itself in multiple ways, such as in motion, sound, light, and thermal energy. (HS-PS3-3)

### PS3.B: Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer

- Conservation of energy means that the total change of energy in any system is always equal to the total energy transferred into or out of the system. (HS-PS3-1)
- Energy cannot be created or destroyed, but it can be transported from one place to another and transferred between systems. (HS-PS3-1, HS-PS3-4)
- Mathematical expressions, which quantify how the stored energy in a system depends on its configuration (e.g., relative positions of charged particles, compression of a spring) and how kinetic energy depends on mass and speed, allow the concept of conservation of energy to be used to predict and describe system behavior. (HS-PS3-1)
- The availability of energy limits what can occur in any system. (HS-PS3-1)
- Uncontrolled systems always evolve toward more stable states—that is, toward more uniform energy distribution (e.g., water flows downhill, and objects higher than their surrounding environment cool down). (HS-PS3-4)

### PS3.D: Energy in Chemical Processes

- Although energy cannot be destroyed, it can be converted to less useful forms — for example, to

thermal energy in the surrounding environment. (HS-PS3-4)

## **ESS2.A: Earth Materials and Systems**

- Earth's systems, being dynamic and interacting, cause feedback effects that can increase or decrease the original changes. (HS-ESS2-1, HS-ESS2-2)
- Evidence from deep probes and seismic waves, reconstructions of historical changes in Earth's surface and its magnetic field, and an understanding of physical and chemical processes lead to a model of Earth with a hot but solid inner core, a liquid outer core, a solid mantle, and crust. Moons of the mantle and its plates occur primarily through thermal convection, which involves the cycling of matter due to the outward flow of energy from Earth's interior and the gravitational movement of denser materials toward the interior. (HS-ESS2-3) •
- The geological record shows that changes to global and regional climate can be caused by interactions among changes in the sun's energy output or Earth's orbit, tectonic events, ocean circulation, volcanic activity, glaciers, vegetation, and human activities. These changes can occur on a variety of scales from sudden (e.g., volcanic ash clouds) to intermediate (ice ages) to very long-term tectonic cycles. (HS-ESS2-4)

## **ESS2.B: Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions**

- Plate tectonics is the unifying theory that explains the past and current movements of the rocks at the Earth's surface and provides a framework for understanding its geologic history. Plate movements are responsible for most continental and ocean-floor features and for the distribution of most rocks and minerals within Earth's crust. (HS-ESS2-1)
- The radioactive decay of unstable isotopes continually generates new energy within Earth's crust and mantle, providing the primary source of the heat that drives mantle convection. Plate tectonics can be viewed as the surface expression of mantle convection. (HS-ESS2-3)

## **ESS2-C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes**

- The abundance of liquid water on Earth's surface and its unique combination of physical and chemical properties are central to the planet's dynamics. These properties include water's exceptional capacity to absorb, store, and release large amounts of energy, transmit sunlight, expand upon freezing, dissolve and transport materials, and lower the viscosities and melting points of rocks. (HS-ESS2-5)

## **ESS2-D: Weather and Climate**

- The foundation for Earth's global climate systems is the electromagnetic radiation from the sun, as well as its reflection, absorption, storage, and redistribution among the atmosphere, ocean, and land systems, and this energy's reradiation into space. (HS-ESS2-2, HS-ESS2-4)
- Changes in the atmosphere due to human activity have increased carbon dioxide concentrations and thus affect climate. (HS-ESS2-4)

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## **Crosscutting Concepts**

## **Systems and System Models**

- Models can be used to predict the behavior of a system, but these predictions have limited precision and reliability due to the assumptions and approximations inherent in models. (HS-PS3-1)
- When investigating or describing a system, the boundaries and initial conditions of the system need to be defined and their inputs and outputs analyzed and described using models. (HS-PS3-4)

## **Energy and Matter**

- Changes of energy and matter in a system can be described in terms of energy and matter flows into, out of, and within that system. (HS-PS3-3)
- Energy drives the cycling of matter within and between systems. (HS-ESS2-3)

## **Stability and Change**

- Change and rates of change can be quantified and modeled over very short or very long periods. Some system changes are irreversible. (HS-ESS2-1)
- Feedback (negative or positive) can stabilize or destabilize a system. (HS-ESS2-2)

## **Cause and Effect**

- Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects. (HS-ESS2-4)

## **Structure and Function**

- The functions and properties of natural and designed objects and systems can be inferred from their overall structure, the way their components are shaped and used, and the molecular substructures of their various materials. (HS-ESS2-5)

## **Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World**

- Modern civilization depends on major technological systems. Engineers continuously modify these technological systems by applying scientific knowledge and engineering design practices to increase benefits while decreasing costs and risks. (HS-PS3-3)
- New technologies can have deep impacts on society and the environment, including some that were not anticipated. Analysis of costs and benefits is a critical aspect of decisions about technology. (HS-ESS2-2)

## **Scientific Knowledge Assumes an Order and Consistency in Natural Systems**

- Science assumes the universe is a vast single system in which basic laws are consistent. (HS-PS3-1)

## **Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology**

- Science and engineering complement each other in the cycle known as research and development (R&D). Many R&D projects may involve scientists, engineers, and others with wide ranges of expertise. (HS-ESS2-3)

## **Rationale and Transfer Goals**

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The purpose of this unit is to understand the conservation of energy and how it relates to observations in the real world. Students will be able to understand the different forms of energy (potential and kinetic) as well as the means to transfer energy from one system to another. Students will apply macroscopic understandings of kinetic and potential energies to microscopic situations (temperature and heat) as well as large-scale situations (tectonic plates and the solar system). The understanding that energy can not be created or destroyed will allow students to understand where energy goes as a process occurs allowing them to answer the overarching question of what happens when energy moves from one place to another.

## **Enduring Understandings**

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- In an isolated system, energy is always conserved.
- Work is the transfer of energy into or out of a system and is equal to the change of energy within the system.
- Energy can be transferred via conduction, convection, or radiation.
- Macroscopic and microscopic systems experience energy changes in very similar ways.
- The geosphere experiences changes due to a flow of energy to and from the Earth.

## **Essential Questions**

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- I have heard it since kindergarten, but what is energy? [[Phenomena](#)]
- How can we use mathematics to prove what happens in abiotic and biotic systems? [[Phenomena](#)]
- How long does it take to make a mountain? [[Phenomena](#)]
- Superstorm Sandy devastated the New Jersey Shore and demonstrated to the public how vulnerable our infrastructure is. Using your understanding of energy, design a low-technology system that would ensure the availability of energy to residents if catastrophic damage to the grid occurs again.

## **Content - What will students know?**

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- Work that enters or leaves a system is equal to the change of energy within the system.
- Energy can be converted into other forms, but it cannot be created or destroyed.
- If two objects are in thermal contact, they will exchange heat until they reach thermal equilibrium.
- Earth processes occur over many millennia and are variable due to changes within the Earth.
- One change in energy can cause a chain reaction in other systems.
- When a gas or liquid is heated, it will undergo convection.
- Changing the flow of energy from one system to another will cause changes within each system over time.

## **Skills - What will students be able to do?**

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- Solve equations using the work-energy equation to show that positive/negative work will change the energy within the system.
- Design a simple roller coaster and show the changes in kinetic and potential energy it undergoes throughout the ride.
- Solve for the amount of heat that was transferred based on the changes in temperature of two objects in thermal equilibrium.
- Use equations of kinetic and potential energy to solve for the rate at which content will move.
- Investigate scenarios in which a small change in energy leads to a bigger chain reaction.
- Observe the flow of heat within a gas and observe that hot gas will rise as cold air will sink.
- Use climate change as an example of what happens when the energy input to the Earth's atmosphere changes over time due to human interactions.

## **Activities - How will we teach the content and skills?**

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- Develop an activity that shows how positive work will increase the energy within a system while negative work will remove energy from a system. [[link](#)]
- Utilize the phet energy skate park simulation to show changes in potential energy lead to changes in kinetic energy. [[link](#)]
- Use a PhET simulation to show the effect of adding or removing heat from a liquid or gas. [[link](#)]
- Use simulations of continental drift and determine the rate at which continents move in order to determine the energy needed to move them. [[link](#)]
- Complete an activity using elastic potential energy to determine how small changes in displacement can lead to bigger changes in the kinetic energy of objects. [[link](#)]
- Review the effect of density on floating and sinking and explain what is observed in videos of convection. [[link](#)]
- Read scholarly resources and use the knowledge of work and energy as well as convection to explain

why the Earth's average temperature is increasing and why that leads to a bigger chain reaction down the line. [\[link\]](#)

### **Evidence/Assessments - How will we know what students have learned?**

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- Students will be able to use the work-energy equation to determine a number of different variables.
- Students will be able to predict the velocity of an object if it dropped from a certain height.
- Students will be able to determine the amount of heat that has been transferred based on the change in temperature of a mass.
- Students will be able to use the mass and velocity of an object to determine the energy required to move it.
- Students will be able to conceptually explain why a small change in energy can lead to a larger change in a system.
- Students will be able to explain the difference between conduction, convection, and radiation
- Students will be able to use work and energy to explain climate change.
- [Physics Unit 3 Benchmark](#)

### **Spiraling for Mastery**

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Content or Skill for this Unit	Spiral Focus from Previous Unit	Instructional Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kinetic energy depends on mass and speed.</li><li>• Stored energy depends on configuration in terms of the relative position of masses.</li><li>• As an object falls, the potential energy will linearly decrease as the kinetic energy linearly increases.</li><li>• Energy cannot be created or destroyed. It only moves between one place and another, between objects and/or fields, or between systems.</li><li>• Use mathematical expressions to quantify how stored energy in a system depends on</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The changes of state that occur with variations in temperature or pressure can be described and predicted using these models of matter.</li><li>• Some chemical reactions release energy, others store energy</li><li>• Gravitational forces are always attractive. There is a gravitational force between any two masses, but it is very small except when one or both of the objects have large masses—e.g., Earth and the sun.</li><li>• The term “heat” as used in everyday language refers both to thermal energy (the motion of atoms or</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the role of velocity and mass in determining the kinetic energy of an object.</li><li>• Review the different forms of potential energy that can arise due to the relative location to other objects.</li><li>• Review conservation laws and how a closed or open system can make a difference.</li><li>• Review the layers of the Earth and our ability to “see” underneath the Earth's crust</li><li>• Review heat and how the transfer of heat changes the temperature of a substance.</li><li>• Review the hierarchy of the solar system and why planets revolve around the</li></ul>

<p>configuration—for example, the stretching or compression of a spring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create models of the interior of the Earth that describe the cycling of matter by thermal convection. The continents do not move over the ocean floor; rather, the entire plate moves over the mantle.</li> </ul>	<p>molecules within a substance) and the transfer of that thermal energy from one object to another. In science, heat is used only for this second meaning; it refers to the energy transferred due to the temperature difference between two objects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the moon energy of an object changes, there is inevitably some other change in energy at the same me.</li> <li>• All Earth processes are the result of energy flowing and cycling within and among the planet's systems.</li> <li>• This energy is derived from the sun and Earth's hot interior. The energy that flows and matter that cycles produce chemical and physical changes in Earth's materials and living organisms.</li> <li>• Maps of ancient land and water patterns, based on invasions of rocks and fossils, make clear how Earth's plates have moved great distances, collided, and spread apart.</li> </ul>	<p>sun.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the water cycle and its effects on changing the Earth's surface.</li> </ul>
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## Key Resources

OpenSTAX College Physics [[Link](#)]

WebAssign Homework [[Link](#)]

PhET Simulations [[Link](#)]

Physics [[Link](#)]

Physlet [[Link](#)]



NASA Website [[Link](#)]

The Physics Classroom [[Link](#)]

## Career Readiness, Life Literacies, & Key Skills

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WRK.9.1.2.CAP.2	Explain why employers are willing to pay individuals to work.
WRK.9.1.2.CAP.3	Define entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship.
WRK.9.1.2.CAP.4	List the potential rewards and risks to starting a business.
TECH.9.4.12.CT.3	Enlist input from a variety of stakeholders (e.g., community members, experts in the field) to design a service learning activity that addresses a local or global issue (e.g., environmental justice).
TECH.9.4.12.CT.4	Participate in online strategy and planning sessions for course-based, school-based, or other project and determine the strategies that contribute to effective outcomes.
TECH.9.4.12.GCA.1	Collaborate with individuals to analyze a variety of potential solutions to climate change effects and determine why some solutions (e.g., political, economic, cultural) may work better than others (e.g., SL.11-12.1., HS-ETS1-1, HS-ETS1-2, HS-ETS1-4, 6.3.12.GeoGI.1, 7.1.IH.IPERS.6, 7.1.IL.IPERS.7, 8.2.12.ETW.3).
TECH.9.4.12.IML.2	Evaluate digital sources for timeliness, accuracy, perspective, credibility of the source, and relevance of information, in media, data, or other resources (e.g., NJSLSA.W8, Social Studies Practice: Gathering and Evaluating Sources).
TECH.9.4.12.IML.3	Analyze data using tools and models to make valid and reliable claims, or to determine optimal design solutions (e.g., S-ID.B.6a., 8.1.12.DA.5, 7.1.IH.IPRET.8).
TECH.9.4.12.IML.4	Assess and critique the appropriateness and impact of existing data visualizations for an intended audience (e.g., S-ID.B.6b, HS-LS2-4).
TECH.9.4.12.IML.5	Evaluate, synthesize, and apply information on climate change from various sources appropriately (e.g., 2.1.12.CHSS.6, S.IC.B.4, S.IC.B.6, 8.1.12.DA.1, 6.1.12.GeoHE.14.a, 7.1.AL.PRSNT.2).
TECH.9.4.12.IML.6	Use various types of media to produce and store information on climate change for different purposes and audiences with sensitivity to cultural, gender, and age diversity (e.g., NJSLSA.SL5).

## Interdisciplinary Connections/Companion Standards

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MA.N-Q.A.1	Use units as a way to understand problems and to guide the solution of multi-step problems; choose and interpret units consistently in formulas; choose and interpret the scale and the origin in graphs and data displays.
MA.N-Q.A.2	Define appropriate quantities for the purpose of descriptive modeling.
MA.N-Q.A.3	Choose a level of accuracy appropriate to limitations on measurement when reporting quantities.
LA.RST.11-12.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough evidence from the text to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to precise details for explanations or descriptions.
LA.RST.11-12.2	Determine the central ideas, themes, or conclusions of a text; summarize complex concepts, processes, or information presented in a text by paraphrasing them in simpler

but still accurate terms.

LA.WHST.11-12.7

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

LA.WHST.11-12.8

Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the specific task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.

LA.WHST.11-12.9

Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.