

SCHOOL-GEN HUMAN ENERGY GENERATOR: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Human Energy Generator (HEG)? It's a small machine which turns hand or foot power into electricity, to light up an incandescent or LED bulb.

Is it free to borrow? Absolutely!

What does it come with? It comes with everything you need, including the handles for the generator, the light box, and two lightbulbs – an LED and a traditional incandescent lightbulb. The teacher resource that we encourage you to use along with the HEG can be found anytime online [here](#).

Can any school borrow one? Yes, any New Zealand school can request to borrow the HEG. You just need to fill in the form including your preferred week to borrow it. We will do our best to make sure you can have it on the week you have requested, however giving some options will ensure we get one to you.

How long can I have it for? Ideally, we would like schools to have it for a week – allowing them enough time to use it in a few different classes, but then free it up for another school to borrow. If you have a science event on and require it for a longer period just tell us on the form and we'll see what we can do.

Do I have to be from a school to borrow the HEG? We would like to give priority to schools to borrow the HEG. However, if you're from a school holiday programme or another organisation that would benefit from borrowing the HEG – fill in the form and explain who you are and why you need it.

I am a student at a school – can I request the HEG? We really need a teacher to run through the HEG activity. So, talk to one of your teachers, show them the HEG video and the website – and encourage them to request one.

Does it come already set up? No, however it comes in a handy and easily transportable box (it's on wheels as it is relatively heavy) that contains everything you need – including a set of instructions. It only takes about five minutes to put together, and once you have done it you can easily move it from classroom to classroom. If you run into issues and need to resolve it urgently call Jenny Burke on 021 816 533.

How does it get around? Most of the time we will courier the machine out to you – in its purpose-built box. We will provide courier stickers and a label to affix to the box to enable you to send it on to its next location or back to us.

Is there anything we should know before we use it? Students need to be supervised by an adult when using the HEG as it is heavy and could cause harm or be damaged if used incorrectly. To ensure it is stable when you use it, it comes with clamps so it can be attached to a desk. The temptation for students is to put all their energy into it, and if it hasn't been firmly affixed to a table, it can move and potentially cause harm if it moves or falls off the table. So remember – safety first!

How do I switch from one lightbulb to the other? It doesn't matter which bulb goes in which hole on the lightbox. The switch on the lightbox will redirect the energy to the bulb. If the switch is down on the LED side then the LED will light up, if it is down on the traditional side then the traditional bulb will light up. **IMPORTANT** – before you flick the switch to redirect the energy you must STOP turning the handles or pedalling. If you don't it will blow the bulb.

What happens if something on the machine breaks while we are using it? Just [contact us](#) and let us know and we will see if we can get you a replacement part. As long as it is used sensibly and the instructions are followed it is unlikely there will be any issues.

I want to do this activity with my class, but can't wait for the HEG to arrive. What can I do? We have filmed a handy little video in which three students demonstrate how the HEG works. It's a really condensed version of what you would do with your class if you had the HEG, so it's a good alternative to show your class if you can't wait for the actual machine. Check our Human Energy Generator page to watch the video.