

The Efficient Fable of the Big Bad Energy Hog

Once upon a time, there were three little wolves. They were all very smart and did simple things in their homes to save energy. The three little wolves knew if they didn't save energy, the Big, Bad Energy Hog would come to their homes ... and they didn't want that! Because the three little wolves knew the less energy they used, the cleaner their forest and the planet would be. And the more energy they used, the bigger and badder the Energy Hog would become.

When the first wolf wasn't looking, the Big, Bad Energy Hog snuck into their house and turned on all the lights! Then the Hog tip toed back outside and watched through the window. "I wonder what the little wolf will do," said the Hog. He thought, for sure, the little wolf would leave all the lights on and go about their day. He was wrong!

When the little wolf turned around, he said, "What are the lights doing on?" He was shocked and angry. "The Big, Bad Energy Hog must have been here." He quickly went to the bedroom to shut off the light. As the light went out, the Energy Hog squealed, "Uh-oh!" as he felt himself shrink ever so slightly. He wasn't very happy about the little wolf saving energy.

The little wolf went from room to room to shut off all the lights. This made the Energy Hog shrink a little bit more. "Oh no!" squealed the Hog. You can only imagine how upset he was.

He moved on to the next little wolf's house and sat outside to come up with a plan. "This little wolf can't beat me. I know I can outsmart her," he thought. It took a few minutes, but he figured out ways to make the second wolf waste a lot of energy!

When the second little wolf left to go to the store, the Big, Bad Energy Hog snuck into her house and opened the refrigerator, turned on the TV and even started the washing machine with no laundry in it. What a naughty Energy Hog! "My plans are sure to work this time. I think she's too busy to notice," he said. He thought for sure the second little wolf wouldn't care and just go about her day. So, the Hog ran outside and watched through the window waiting for her to come home. He was shocked to see what happened next.

When the little wolf came home and saw the refrigerator opened and the TV and washing machine on, she was furious! "I just know the Big, Bad Energy Hog was here!" she shouted. She ran to the kitchen and closed the refrigerator door. The Hog felt himself starting to shrink again, and realized things were not going as he planned and squealed, "Uh-oh!"

Then, she ran to the family room and turned off the TV. At last, the little wolf dashed to the laundry room and shut off the washing machine. This made the Energy Hog grunt, “Uh-oh!” and he got even smaller!

Now, the Energy Hog was REALLY upset, he liked being BIG and BAD. But to stay big and bad, he needed the little wolves to waste lots of energy. “There is still one more little wolf to go!” exclaimed the Hog. So, he ran to the third wolf’s house and sat outside on a rock thinking and thinking, “How can I trick this wolf into wasting a whole bunch of energy? I have the perfect plan; I know just how to do it.”

While the third little wolf was playing in the snow, the Big, Bad Energy Hog slipped into the house, turned up the temperature on the thermostat to super high. “I’m going to send this wolf to the Arctic!” he shouted as he opened all the windows and doors. The Hog was *certain* the third little wolf would leave the heat on and keep the windows and doors open to help melt the snow outside. “At last, my plan will work!” snorted the Energy Hog. With a big smile on his face, he hid behind a tree waiting to see what would happen next. But he soon realized he’d spoken too quickly.

When the little wolf came in the house and saw the heat was on as high as it could go and all the windows and doors were opened, he was fuming! “I know the big, bad Energy Hog must have been in my house. I would never waste energy.” He rushed over to the thermostat and turned down the temperature. The Energy Hog realized his plan had failed again. He started to get that shrinking feeling again and squealed, “Uh-oh!”

Then the little wolf sprinted to close all the doors and windows. As he went about this, he heard the Hog squeal “Uh-oh!” and saw him hiding behind the tree getting even smaller and smaller.

The Energy Hog was so sad that he whined “Wee, wee, wee” all the way home. When he got home, he looked in the mirror and said, “What happened to me?” He was no longer the Big, Bad Energy Hog. He had become a very cute, little piggy. And never tried to make anyone waste energy again.

“From now on, I’ll help my friends make smart choices about how they use energy,” said the Hog. “I want to help make the planet a better place.” He lived on a farm happily ever after where the little wolves would come to visit.