Electro-City
Designing an energy efficient town—On a budget!

Electro-City is a New Zealand produced game designed to teach you about what goes in to running an energy efficient town. Your town must be supplied with a source of electricity, but how you go about doing this is entirely up to you. As you play through the game, however, you’ll find that certain decisions you make will be met with support while others will cause the people in your town to become unhappy. What’s great about Electro-City is that whether you prioritize happiness of the townsfolk, size of your city, or quality of your environment, your city’s well-being is largely determined by the energy choices you make.

**FIRST:** Go to the website http://www.electrocity.co.nz/ Click on “How to play” and view the tutorial so that you know how to run your city. Once you have clicked through the “how-to,” click the green “Start a City!” button on page 9. Click “Start a New Game,” and come up with a school-appropriate name for your town. After that, how you manage your town is up to you!

**TIPS:** It might take a play-through or two before you are even able to complete the game. My first two towns were bankrupted fairly quickly, so don’t give up if this happens to you! You don’t have to record the score of your first town, either. If you would like to play for a better one, go for it!

**AFTER:** Once you are satisfied with your results, fill in the scores and answer the following questions **in complete sentences!**

**Scores:**
Name of town:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Final population:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Final town bank value:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Final happiness value:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Final amount of coal:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Gas:\_\_\_\_\_\_
Electric supply (color):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Environmental quality (color):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **Comprehension and Reflection Questions:**

1. What about fueling your city was most challenging? Why do you think this was?

2. Did your city every go into energy debt? What did you do? Was this sustainable?

3. Was your first city successful? If not, what happened to it?

4. What aspect of your city did you choose to prioritize? Why? Were you successful in your goals?

5. Were you able to use renewable energy in your city? What challenges did you face in doing so if you did?

**Reflection:** Using what you have learned in class as well as what you learned while playing this game, reflect on the following in a 5-7 sentence paragraph: how feasible are renewable energy technologies for the future? What are some challenges in adopting and maintaining these technologies? Should we pursue them even though they have problems? Explain your responses!