

This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. This week we will be using art to experiment with energy. How, you ask? We will be creating our own windmill. Power that is created by wind was first used by sailors to capture the wind to move the boat through the water faster. This knowledge was then used by Persians and Chinese people to pump water and grind grains. The wind can turn the blades of a turbine around a rotating device which then spins a machine that converts to electricity. This process is creative art between man and nature!



1-Draw a dot in the center of each of two paper cups. Poke a hole the cups with a toothpick or pencil on the dot. If you are using white paper cups, you can color or paint the outside of the cups as you like. Make one of the holes large enough for a straw to fit in the hole. You can weigh down one of the cups that will be the base, by taping coins inside. Cut slits about 1/3 of the way from the outer edge of the cup towards the bottom of the cup, approximately 1/4 inch apart. Fold each section (or blade) to the outside of the cup. You can decorate the blades of the windmill. Use stickers or permanent markers, if the cups have a waxy finish.

2-Place a toothpick into the dot on the cup with the blades. Place the toothpick into the bendable end of the straw. You may have to trim the straw on the top or bottom to balance out the weight of the blades. Place the other end into the hole of the cup that is weighted. Make some wind by blowing on the blades of the windmill or place in an open window when there is a slight breeze blowing. What happens? If you had your own windmill, what would you use the energy for?

Be well and happy spinning!

-Ms. Susan