

# Junior Level **Schools of the Year**



## **Ohio**



**Heritage Middle School**  
**Westerville, OH**  
**Project Title: Plug Into Energy**  
**Project Advisor: Debbie Pellington,**  
**Nyasha Clayton, LaVanya Watkins,**  
**Jason Tucker**

The goal of the Heritage Energy Leaders was to get as many people as possible to “Plug Into Energy” in a fun and educational way. We showcased this in our scrapbook by connecting each page with a plug and cord going into an outlet. The outlet is a draft stopper, an energy conservation tool that we distributed at many school and community activities this year. In addition, each outlet showcases a sentence that summarizes our energy accomplishment featured on the page.

To integrate our goal of educating about energy through fun activities, we incorporated that into our scrapbook too. The scrapbook contains some pages that are not enclosed in plastic page protectors. Those pages include some type of interactive way to highlight energy information such as lifting a flap, a pop-up, a mini-book or choosing an energy answer.

We succeeded at getting people to “Plug Into Energy” through such activities as hosting multiple energy fairs, lunches featuring NEED games, energy education stations at parent-teacher conferences and meet the teacher night and participating in the NEED National Solar Bake-Off. We also ran a successful school-wide recycling program and organized Energy Awareness Week encouraging both school and community members to “Plug Into Energy”.

## **Rhode Island**



**Park View Middle School**  
**Cranston, RI**  
**Project Title: PV Cougars**  
**Project Advisor: Joanne Spaziano,**  
**Nancy DeCosta, Sheila Hopkins**

2011-2012 was a growth year for Park View. Almost all of our leader students were new 7th graders. We met early in September to form a new group. We learned about NEED at the Hot Dog roast where we received PV beads that turned color in the sunlight. We presented at Open House about using CFL's to save energy and money. We had our ESL team attend our Middle school conference and we also presented an Elementary Conference both for the RI state Energy Office and the NEED national office. People registered through the NEED website. We had our 2nd annual Energy Fair which we think was our best event. We enjoyed presenting to the community and being together from 2:30–8:00pm! The Park View community was informed about our events through notices in the bulletin, on the email list to teachers and parents, as well as the Park View website. The Cranston Herald covered our events this year through reporter Pam Tcath. We reached 500+ people directly through our conferences and school events and about 3000+ through the media coverage. We look forward to 2012-2013 as we grow our NEED team with returning 8th graders and incoming 7th graders.

The Ohio Energy Project (OEP) experienced another hugely successful year developing innovative methods to provide energy education and leadership opportunities to Ohio's students and teachers. Youth Energy Summits, Energy Workshops, and Energy Fairs were held across the state to educate teachers and students about energy-related issues. OEP's Energy Efficiency Education Program empowered students and teachers to conserve energy at home using energy conservation kits, resulting in a significant energy savings across the state. This program has been extremely successful and we are planning to ship 54,000 energy conservation kits throughout Ohio in the upcoming year. The funding partners for this program are AEP Ohio, Columbia Gas, Dayton Power and Light, Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives and Vectren.

Similar to summers past, the number one professional development opportunity

for OEP continues to be the Energy Sources Tour. Teachers board a bus to visit a variety of energy sites across Ohio that demonstrate various energy sources and production, their applications, and other science concepts. The Environmental Careers for Ohio's Students has been extremely successful, having reached 250 high school student leaders across the state as it aligns the state's best and brightest high school students with energy-related technology and research currently being performed across Ohio. The Energy Bike continues to be built by middle school girls from Ohio school districts during the summer AEGIS (Activating and Energizing Girls in Science) program. Energy Bikes are also being sold across the nation to utilities, educational organizations and school districts.

OEP partnered with AEP Ohio on a groundbreaking demonstration gridSmart program in central Ohio school districts. The gridSmart

program provided information to teachers and their students about the benefits of smart grid technologies and showed how these technologies can make their homes, schools and communities more energy efficient.

Major Sponsors: American Electric Power; AEP Ohio; Dayton Power & Light; Vectren; Ohio Department of Development/Community Services; American Municipal Power and Member Communities; Westerville Electric Division; Worthington City Schools; Honda of America; Ohio Fuel Cell Corridor; NiSource/Columbia Gas; Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives; Martha Holden Jennings Foundation; Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation; Ohio Propane Education Research Council; Marathon Ashland Petroleum; Industrial Energy Users; Energy Optimizers, USA; Niagara Conservation Corporation; Office of Energy and the Environment at the Ohio State University.

## Ohio Primary Finalist



**Annehurst Elementary School**

**Westerville, OH**

**Project Title: Time for Change**

**Project Advisor: Julie Pierron, Erica Layne,  
Kelli Stuckey**

The goals of our energy project focused on observing and making changes within our classrooms and community. First, we investigated changes made by the sun, wind, magnets and ourselves as we experienced inquiry-based activities. We observed the sun's effect on candy pieces, growing plants, compost, solar toys, and a solar oven. We discovered the power of the wind and how quickly that energy changes. Ramps and various surfaces change the speed and direction of balls, cars, and other objects. We learned about energy sources and recycling.

Our teachers looked for growth in our knowledge through our writing samples, visual displays (posters) and NEED *Primary Polls*. Technology was used to educate ourselves and our families.

We used our knowledge of the sun and wind to share energy activities with the kindergarteners. Our partnership with the Annهورst Garden Club has helped us create compost for our rain gardens. We've educated students AND teachers in our school by creating posters, reporting energy news and patrolling how the school uses energy. Finally, we helped our neighbors learn by writing letters to the local paper.

## Ohio



**Annehurst Elementary School**

**Westerville, OH**

**Project Title: Annehurst Conservation Team (ACT)**

**Project Advisor: Marsha Siefker**

Our 5th Annual Annehurst Community Energy Fair was the highlight of our year. The Annehurst Conservation Team (ACT) hosted this evening event for our Annehurst students (K-5) and parents. With help, materials and resources donated by NEED, OEP, and the Westerville Electric Division, ACT developed, designed, and manned fifteen stations with games,

experiments, and questions designed to teach participants about energy related topics, energy usage, and energy conservation. The fifteen stations also covered more than 90% of our 5th Grade Ohio Content Standards. All stations were hands-on, inquiry based, and interactive. Participants earned "Energy Bucks" to be "cashed in" at the Energy Store. The Westerville Electric Division donated over 200 CFL bulbs and 120 goodie bags, and OEP let us borrow the Energy Bike, various pre-made energy stations, games and materials. OEP and fifth grade families donated the Energy Store Items.

Other Annehurst Conservation Team (ACT) highlights include:

- Being selected to share our annual Energy Fairs at the 13th annual Student Achievement Fair on November 15, 2011 Ohio School Board Association's Capital Conference and Trade Show.
- Our 5th Annual 4th Grade Energy Fair
- Our first ever 1st Grade Energy Fair
- 100% participation in the OEP T-shirt Logo Contest
- Classroom lessons utilizing the NEED website and materials
- Activities, centers, stations/kits from OEP
- 100% participation in the OEP Home Energy Survey
- Two ecology related field trips to Sharon Woods
- A Fifth/First Grade Arbor Day Lorax Activity

Activities/projects in the works for the remainder of the year include:

- Morning announcements
- The development of a school-wide Energy newsletter/pamphlet

## PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

# U.S. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

NEED continues an exciting partnership with the Energy Information Administration in support of the very popular Energy Kids website and its roving mascot Energy Ant. Teachers nationwide continue to share how much they appreciate EIA's Energy Kids site and the time and effort that goes into making the website useful, educational, and balanced for students and teachers. Energy Ant continues to visit energy facilities and write about the trips in the Energy Ant Journal on Energy Kids. NEED and EIA work together on the Energy Industry Study Program to engage EIA employees in learning about various sectors of the energy industry with timely discussions with energy professionals and field experiences to generating facilities, energy infrastructure facilities, and more.

## Ohio



**Heritage Middle School**

**Westerville, OH**

**Project Title: Plug Into Energy**

**Project Advisor: Debbie Pellington, Nysha Clayton, LaVanya Watkins, Jason Tucker**

**Junior Level School of the Year**

**See page 25.**

## Ohio



**Oakwood High School**

**Dayton, OH**

**Project Title: Cut Back. Cut Down. Conserve**

**Project Advisor: Tony Rainsberger, Heidi Steinbrink**

The goal of Oakwood High School Energy Team is to further the education and awareness of today's energy problems and their solutions.

In each of our activities and training sessions, we emphasize the importance of educating our society to make a positive change in the world.

We have four driving goals:

- Energize Our Peers
- Teach the Future
- Inspire the Community
- Moving Oakwood Forward

By doing so, the word of energy conservation and efficiency affects all aspects of our community. We zoned in on "Moving Oakwood Forward" this year, to make our school a living model of what we represent.

## Ohio Special Project Finalist



**Westerville City Schools**

**Westerville, OH**





## Ohio



**William Henry Harrison High School  
Harrison, OH**

**Project Title: Hope for the Future**

**Project Advisor: Steve Brickner**

The Harrison High School Ohio Energy Project group decided that our community wasn't green enough. So, we set out to make the City of Harrison energy efficient. We decided on eight major goals that we wished to enact to help Harrison conserve energy and recycle more. We have had an extremely busy year making a difference in the community by inspiring and educating others.

Our Ohio Energy Project group traveled to several elementary schools to perform events for school children to educate them about energy. We started a district wide recycling program to reduce our amount of waste. We also took several field trips to better educate ourselves in order to be able to make a significant difference in the community. One of our proudest accomplishments was becoming Engineers without Borders after learning of the tropical rainforest depletion in countries like Rwanda. The lack of firewood for creating heat and for cooking inspired us to create biomass briquettes to provide fuel for them to cook with so their survival is ensured.

Our group is confident that we have made a difference and helped conserve energy in our school and in our community.

## STATE SPOTLIGHT

## RHODE ISLAND

For a small state, Rhode Island is BIG in energy education. Hosting over eight workshops a year for teachers and students, NEED's programming in Rhode Island covers the science of energy, energy sources, wind and solar energy, and home and school building energy efficiency. NEED participates in the Rhode Island conference of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership and provides resources to school districts working to reduce energy consumption in school buildings. With the support of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, Dominion and National Grid, hundreds of teachers and students are reached each year.

## Rhode Island



**Park View Middle School**

**Cranston, RI**

**Project Title: PV Cougars**

**Project Advisor: Joanne Spaziano, Nancy**

**DeCosta, Sheila Hopkins**

**Junior Level School of the Year**

**See page 25.**