

Home Energy Project

Newsletter 13 | Term 4, 2006

This issue features:

South Australian and Victorian schools using HEP

Read on for ideas to:

- use HEP in the classroom - including teacher tips
- connect HEP to the curriculum
- plan ahead for next year's participation awards.

The 2006 participation awards

- This year's entries were outstanding, read about some school's amazing achievements.

The CO₂ emissions challenge

- Be part of saving 1 million kg of CO₂ emissions.

Professional development

- Term 4 PD sessions in South Australia and Victoria.



Macalister College VIC Students take excellent energy saving ideas to their local community.

Participation awards - judging has begun!

It has been a busy year for the Home Energy Project. More than 1,160 Victorian and South Australian schools are now involved, 80 teachers have attended professional development sessions and the annual participation awards are in progress.

This year 1,360 students participated in the awards, the highest number ever to share their energy saving knowledge with members of their local and wider community. All entries received are

outstanding and the enthusiasm of teachers and students for their work is very evident.

Energy saving messages were communicated through posters, models, brochures, DVDs, movie nights, displays in local shopping centres and on school open days, as well as visits and presentations to neighbouring schools or community groups.

Schools are in the running to win one of the \$1,000 or \$200 grants and this year the entry that shows the most **outstanding community participation** will win a fully installed solar system for their school with electronic monitoring for teaching valued at \$10,000.

Judging is taking place throughout October, winners and runners-up will be announced in November @ www.originenergy.com.au/hep

Take up the challenge - help reach the target!

This term is the perfect time to send how much your students saved into the CO₂ emissions challenge and be part of saving 1 million kg of CO₂ emissions.

All schools using the Home Energy Project can get involved simply by sending us the combined household savings achieved when energy use changes were made.

Schools who submit their savings have the chance to win a \$250 grant. **See page 4 for details.**

Get ready for 2007 with a free kit and professional development session by calling **1800 659 511** or emailing order@ei.com.au.

For more information, visit www.originenergy.com.au/hep

HEP in the classroom

More than 1,160 schools and thousands of households across South Australia and Victoria are having energy saving success with the Home Energy Project. Here are just some of the reasons why.

“Most project tasks assess just the students learning so it was wonderful to offer the students an activity that families can participate in as well. One parent has even removed the heat lamps from their bathrooms!”

– Sally Rawlings
St Leonard’s College, VIC

The Home Energy Project not only has strong links to the curriculum but provides plenty of opportunity for cross-curricula activities.

“I chose the Home Energy Project because it falls right into the curriculum. As a science and a wood technology teacher, I am able to incorporate the scientific aspects along with the technical and construction components of the project.”

– Steve Varga
Mackillop College, VIC

To view or download the relevant curriculum connections for the Home Energy Project, including the CSF II and Victorian Essential Learning Standards, visit www.originenergy.com.au/hep

Mooroolbark College (VIC) students calculate their savings.



Sharing the secrets to sustainability

Discovering that traditional energy resources are limited was the drive for Emerson Specialist School (VIC) to tell others just how important energy sustainability is.

Teacher, Phillip Menadue said, “I chose the Home Energy Project because I was looking for a hands-on activity based resource that connected science with everyday life.”

“When my students discovered how coal, oil and natural gas will run out, they understood the importance of changing how they use energy in their homes.”

The students entered the participation awards using the \$200 early bird assistance grant they were awarded to share energy saving tips with their school community.

“I entered the students into the awards for the challenge,” Phillip said. “The project has definitely taught them team work and cooperation. They also wanted to ‘make’ something from what they learnt.”

For the participation awards, students created energy saving posters to put up around the school, developed badges with energy saving tips for students to wear and even produced an energy efficient model house.

Phillip’s classroom tips

- The support materials are excellent - they are well worth using.
- You don’t need to cover the entire resource, just use the parts that are relevant for your students.
- Try to start planning early on in the year.

Everyone’s involved in saving energy

Hamilton Secondary College (SA) science teachers collaborated to use the Home Energy Project with their Year 9 students.

Teachers focused on different topic areas including energy production, practical uses of energy, energy use at home and the environmental impacts of energy use.

Science teacher, Michelle Harrop used the resource to show her students about energy production and the impacts of their energy use.

Michelle said, “The students made the connection that small changes can make a difference, both financial and environmental. They enjoyed using the energy efficiency calculator because they could instantly

see the effects of implementing their own ideas in their households.”

Students could then decide how to present their findings through projects which they entered into the participation awards and also displayed at school.

“I thought that it was a good way for students to present their findings to the community as students value their work more when they see that it is for a bigger purpose, rather than just learning for themselves and earning a grade. Some of the projects included song recordings, PowerPoint presentations, posters and models.”



Attention shoppers!

Students at Mackillop College (VIC) showed shoppers a better future. Science and wood technology teacher, Steve Varga used the Home Energy Project with Year 7 and 10 science, and Year 10 wood technology students.

Together, the enthusiastic builders, investigated ways to reduce energy use and looked at alternative energy sources like wind power. They then designed and

constructed a scale model energy efficient granny flat, built to a five star energy rating.

The students displayed the finished project at the local shopping centre and discussed the fantastic energy efficient features, including double glazing, insulation and solar energy with members of their community.

Steve’s classroom tips

- Involve multiple year levels, as the project appeals to all ages and if possible incorporate across curricula.
- Get in contact with suppliers to show students examples of real materials like insulation and glazing. The visual stimulus is great for explaining the reality of the project.

Congratulations

Congratulations to everyone who entered the 2006 participation awards. The standard is high, as is the level of creativity and enthusiasm displayed.

It was rewarding to see so many schools sharing the importance of saving energy with their local and wider communities either through displays at local libraries or shopping

centres, or by visiting local primary schools, and even inviting parents and members of their community to information evenings or holding events such as festivals or movie nights.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's awards such a success.

Schools making a difference

Northcote High School, VIC

Timers help save the planet at Northcote High School. Year 8 students discovered they could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15.6 tonnes each year by fitting timers to the school urns.

St Joseph's School, SA

The Year 6 students put energy efficiency on show, creating a display for passing shoppers at Kmart and treating the school to a special play based on the 'Three Little Pigs' with modifications to suit an energy efficient housing theme.

The awards have given the students a sense of purpose. Students were all very motivated when they found out their work was going to be publicly displayed. They knew that their work could influence someone.

- Matt Pastro
St Joseph's School

Oak Park Primary School, VIC

The Grade 3 and 4 students at Oak Park Primary School became energy efficient filmmakers with students creating posters and movies to host a film night for the school community. Students wrote their own scripts and filmed and edited the movies in class.

It was a great opportunity to raise the profile of sustainability in our school and community, and to stimulate creative thinking about energy saving measures that everyone can put into action.

- John Hughes, Oak Park Primary School

Hamilton Secondary College, SA

The Home Energy Project went hip-hop at Hamilton Secondary College. Year 9 students told others how to save energy and the planet with posters, brochures and a groovin' hip-hop song – complete with beatbox solo!

Craigieburn Secondary College, VIC

Year 7 students from Craigieburn Secondary College researched energy use at home and came up with some super saving tips for the kitchen.

Eudunda Area School, SA

Year 9 students at Eudunda Area School switched on to energy efficiency in almost every subject. Students researched energy use in science and then went on to design and build model homes in design and technology, each with over 30 energy saving features.

Millicent High School, SA

Year 8 students from Millicent High School became experts on energy efficiency and achieved huge savings at school. Students promoted their energy saving ideas via posters, a comic strip, a quiz show and a library display.

St Leonard's College, VIC

The bright sparks of Year 6 at St Leonard's College shone when they hosted a Bright Ideas Festival to teach members of the community their energy saving ideas. They even invited the local mayor!

Sustainability underpins the whole philosophy of our school and we saw the awards as a natural extension of the children's interest and a positive way to share our understandings and explorations with the community.

- Sally Rawlings, St Leonard's College

Powering ahead

More than 1,360 students got involved in this year's participation awards with entries clearly showing how motivated teachers and students were to make positive differences in their communities.

The judging panel was impressed with student's initiatives, enthusiasm, hard work, knowledge and outstanding efforts in communicating to others and helping them to understand just how easy it is to save energy, money and the environment.

Some of the entries are outlined here and more are at www.originenergy.com.au/hep

Remember the date for 2007!

The awards will close 1 September 2007 – so plan them into your curriculum and get your students involved.



Ringwood Secondary College (VIC) students had money saving success.

Register early for a \$200 assistance grant

In 2007, there will be more **\$200 early bird assistance grants** awarded to schools getting involved in the Home Energy Project.

Be sure to register @ www.originenergy.com.au/hep before **Thursday 31 May, 2007** for your chance to win.



Kmart display by St Joseph's School (SA) students.



Hamilton Secondary College (SA) students show others how to save.

Professional development sessions

Professional development (PD) sessions provide the opportunity for teachers to ask questions, work through the resource and share ideas.

There will be PD sessions held in both South Australia and Victoria during Term 4. Sessions will be announced via the website at www.originenergy.com.au/hep and email.

We are always looking for new places to hold sessions, so if you would like one to be held in your area or cluster, call **1800 659 511** or email order@ei.com.au

A travel or teacher replacement grant of \$50 is provided to attendees.

I liked the informality of the session and how it was directly transferable to the classes I'm taking.

- Year 8 science teacher, VIC

After attending the session I realised how the teacher's resource made it easy to plan lessons and was flexible so that teachers could take on as little or as much as they liked with their classes.

- Year 9 science teacher, SA

A great demonstration of a range of activities that support meaningful learning.

- Year 9 and 10 maths teacher, SA



RECYCLED CONTENT

Origin
energy

Be part of saving 1 million kg of CO₂ emissions during 2006

If households spend around \$1,000 a year on energy, they could save approximately 1,000 kg of CO₂ emissions by making a few simple changes.

During 2006, we are asking schools participating in the Home Energy Project to send us the combined household savings achieved when they made energy use changes. This data can be collected when completing activities in Calculate and Conserve, for example, *Activity 5, Pooling class data*, page 37 in the Calculate section, and *Activity 9B, Pooling class results*, page 59 in the Conserve section.

As schools submit their savings, their names will be published on www.originenergy.com.au/hep and their savings added to our online barometer.

Each school that provides data will go in a draw for their chance to win a \$250 grant (schools will be drawn at random). In addition, when the challenge is reached every participating class will receive a certificate acknowledging their contribution.

So, make a difference by saving money, energy and the environment. Visit www.originenergy.com.au/hep to submit your details or download a fax form. If you have any questions, please contact **1800 659 511** or email order@ei.com.au

Eudunda Area School leading the way

Thirty Year 9 students at Eudunda Area School used the Home Energy Project to complete a 'control' week analysing how households use energy. The following week they implemented an 'experimental' week where households applied energy efficiency strategies and then calculated their savings.

Students found that households would save 10,070 kilograms of CO₂ emission per year by making simple changes such as reducing time spent using video games, shower time and turning off appliances when not in use, e.g., electric blankets.

New look website

Don't forget to check out our new look website with plenty of information and more **teacher tips** for the classroom.

It also contains detailed **curriculum connections**, the **energy efficiency calculator** (www.originenergy.com.au/efficiency), useful **websites** for students and information about the **participation awards**.



2006 Australian Museum Eureka Awards winner

The Home Energy Project won the 2006 Environmental Sustainability Education category of the Australian Museum Eureka Awards.

The award acknowledged the Home Energy Project as an innovative program and leading edge model for environmental sustainability education that has contributed to behavioural change and encouraged changed practices and environmental improvements.



Looking ahead to 2007

With more than 1,000 schools involved, next year is going to be huge for the Home Energy Project and the participation awards. We can't wait to get started!

We are looking forward to hearing from you and your students to see how you plan to get involved and make a difference to our environment.

Remember: 1 September is the closing date for the 2007 participation awards, so make a note in your diary!

