

# Wisconsin Utilities Support Another Successful Year of Professional Development

Teachers and students benefit from classroom curriculum focused on energy efficiency, conservation, renewables and careers in the energy industry

Thanks to Wisconsin's utilities (including Alliant Energy, WPPI Energy, We Energies, Wisconsin Public Service, Xcel Energy, and Madison Gas & Electric), 196 teachers participated in at least one professional development course offered through the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point by the Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP) during the last school year. Each teacher will reach an average of 60 students each year, equaling approximately 11,760 students who will learn about the importance of energy in our lives including energy efficiency, conservation, renewable energy, and careers in the energy industry.



Photo courtesy of the Marshfield News Herald

*"Xcel Energy is proud to sponsor a program that provides students the opportunity to learn more about the many aspects of the energy industry. From renewables, to conservation to safety, students get a first-hand look at what powers their homes and schools. And, if we're lucky we spark the interest of a student who may want to pursue a career in the utility industry."*

-Julie Thoney, DSM Resource Supervisor, Eau Claire

The need for energy education is clear when we understand that some households spend more than 20 percent of their budget on heating their homes and fueling cars. Energy issues in the news emphasize the importance of energy education. Our society needs individuals with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will allow them to use energy resources wisely. Energy literacy is critical to Wisconsin's economic and environmental future.

## Education highlights from the recent school year include:

- One-hundred ninety-six teachers participated in a graduate-level energy education course
- Hosted a Careers in Energy and Sustainability panel at UW-Stevens Point for students and community
- Presented and exhibited at 13 conferences
- Delivered monthly newsletters to approximately 5,000 educators
- Provided Energy Investigation kits to more than 600 students at three schools where students learned how to use energy audit tools to examine energy consumption at school and at home
- Trained 87 students from five school districts to become energy ambassadors in their schools and communities through the Student Energy Auditor Training (SEAT)
- Recognized four educators with the annual Energy Educator of the Year award
- Awarded five school districts new ENERGY STAR appliances which will increase energy literacy through energy efficiency education in Family and Consumer Science classes
- Engaged more than 1,000 students in hands-on energy activities through science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) events
- Received the 2015 IDEAL Award for Education from Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (KGMB); this award recognizes an individual or organization educating the value of sustainability and environmental stewardship

To learn more about energy education in Wisconsin, visit [keepprogram.org](http://keepprogram.org).

