

Energizing Earth Week

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NR934: School Building Energy Efficiency Education

Ben Franklin Elementary

K-5

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Action Plan Summary

The purpose of this action plan is to educate staff and students on conserving energy during Earth Week (April 20-24). The age range for this project would be from K to 5th grade. There would be a special committee designated to creating and implementing energy Earth Week activities for the entire school. PTA is welcome to join the committee.

We would implement our plan at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School. There are approximately 870 students at our school. For specific activities, we would divide into grade level teams.

In the past we've celebrated Earth Week with various activities. However, we have never specifically focused on what we could do as a school to reduce our energy cost within the building. The budget involved with our plan is minimal, involving making copies at 5 cents a piece.

Statement of Need

The current Ben Franklin celebration for Earth Week has focused on recycling awareness and garbage collection. While this is important and will still be a part of our celebration, we also would like to include educating our school community on other ways we can make a difference.

Our plan to "energize" Earth Week will fulfill this goal in the following ways:

- Raise awareness of how much energy we use in our building
- Raise awareness of how much it costs to run our building
- Create action plan as a whole school for conserving energy
- Involve students as to what their role is in saving energy

Project Goals and Objectives

In order to achieve teacher involvement, we would;

-have staff complete Let There Be Light KEEP activity for their individual classroom

-summarize key statistics learned in the KEEP class during next staff professional development meeting

-invite all teachers to develop and carry out activities during Earth Week

In order to achieve student involvement, we would;

- assign an Energizer of the Day in each classroom to patrol light and water use
- send a take-home assignment to ask parents how much their energy costs are per month at home (compare costs at school the next day)
- class brainstorm session on ways to save energy in the school and classroom

Methods and timeline

Actions taken to achieve project goals:

- one activity a day during Earth Week
 - Bring Your Own Bag Lunch (no kitchen oven use for a day)
 - Turn Off the Lights (in each room, one hour per day)
 - Designate a special area to each grade level to clean up
 - Decorate grocery paper bag for Earth Week to educate larger community about the special week and ways to celebrate it
 - School-wide parade to send message about walking when you can and picking up trash around you

These activities would take place all throughout one week, during the week of the school year when Earth Day falls.

Evaluation Process

The committee would receive feedback from the staff and Ben Franklin families regarding activities. The committee would meet to discuss results of Earth Week celebration and make improvements for the following year so it becomes an annual tradition.

The committee could research WE Energies bill for that month and report back the changes the school community may have made during the week.

The students could reflect on the week's activities during Writing Workshop. They could share their personal thoughts, create a how-to book on conserving energy and write informational brochures for the community on energy conservation tips they have learned.

Budget

The money that would be needed to carry out the activities for Energizing Earth Week would cover the costs of making copies for 870 students and 120 staff members.

Contact WE Energies website to obtain free booklets/handouts to send home with students.