

## NR734 Action Plan

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### Action Plan Summary

The purpose of our plan is to educate Hawthorne Elementary School staff and students about the need and benefit of saving energy at our school. To get baseline data, students will begin to check to see if the building lights and computers are turned off or left on in empty rooms.

We will have an assembly at the end of September to announce our energy savings campaign. The campaign will involve the creation of a student energy task force that will have "Energy Enforcers" from each grade level. The Energy Enforcers will keep track of lights and computers, giving reward coupons for rooms that turn them off when the room is empty. These grade level representatives will meet through the year to share information and create new ideas for energizing the staff and students for this project.

The Energy Enforcers will have a bulletin board for sharing information with the rest of the school. On it will be two thermometers, one for displaying the (hopefully) decreasing energy costs and one for the increasing money saved. The representatives will create and hand out stickers for placement on computers and light switches as reminders to "Turn It Off". We will also ask our custodians if they can turn our hall lights to "half on" after students leave for the day.

### Introduction to the Audience

Hawthorne was built in the mid 1950s, at a time of relatively low energy costs. We have approximately 400 students in Kindergarten through Fifth grade. The school has some updated energy saving equipment such as the t8 fluorescent lights, light sensors in two bathrooms and computer controlled timing of heating and cooling systems.

### Statement of Problem or Need

Madison School District is trying very hard to reduce energy costs. Since we are in financial difficulty at this time, any energy savings would benefit the staff, students and district. We want to get our building to participate in the reduction of energy costs. Most teachers and students do not turn off lights or computers when they leave a room. Often, computers are left on overnight or for a whole weekend. We hope to educate staff and students to identify and eliminate wasteful energy use. This education would also help students to make important energy saving decisions in their homes and throughout their lives.

### Project Goals and Objectives

Our goal is to reduce the use of electricity in our building and educate our staff and students in energy saving behaviors. We are going to try to reach a goal of saving \$200 a month in energy costs to our school.

Our first year of activities will give us a better idea of what kind of monetary goal we can actually strive for.

### Methods and Timelines

Our project will occur over the course of a school year, September 2005 to June 2006.

**September:** Mary and Nancy's classes will do background investigations for baseline data. Students will walk around the school recording data on energy use during lunch times, specials and after school. They will count number of lights and computers left on in unoccupied classrooms.

We will talk to our own classes about the school's energy bill, and then brainstorm some ideas to get our school energized for this campaign. To experience the reality of the amount of money our school spends in a month, we will create a "money storm" by tossing \$3000 of play money in the air.

Two students from each grade level will be recruited to form an energy task force to work on the year's energy ideas. These students will be the "Energy Enforcers".

**October:** A school assembly will be held to introduce the Energy Task Force and the ideas of energy conservation. The task force will share stickers designed to be put on light switches and computers to remind them to "Turn It Off". The bulletin board that has two thermometers recording the savings will be created by students. We will also share the idea of coupons handed out for energy efficient behaviors. At the end of each month, the class with the most energy coupons will earn a class reward such as an energy book or video, CFL light bulb etc.

We will also meet with our custodial staff to plan some whole building energy saving ideas. Perhaps we could start by turning a percentage of hall lights off when students are not in the building.

**Nov-May:** We will continue to carry out these ideas. We will review each month's energy bill to see what savings we may have made and represent that on our thermometers.

**June:** At an end of the year assembly, the Energy Task Force will make a presentation regarding the energy we have saved.

### Evaluation Criteria and Process

The students on the Energy Task Force will record classroom use of lights and computers in a log book and issue coupons to successful classrooms.

Our criteria will be to reach the savings of \$200 a month on our monthly bill.

## Budget

Our plan does not require much money at this time. However, if our campaign grows, we will need a budget. At this time the \$100 stipend from this class can be used for reward /incentive gifts such as books, videos and stickers. We also plan to sell Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs as a fundraiser to create funds for a campaign budget.