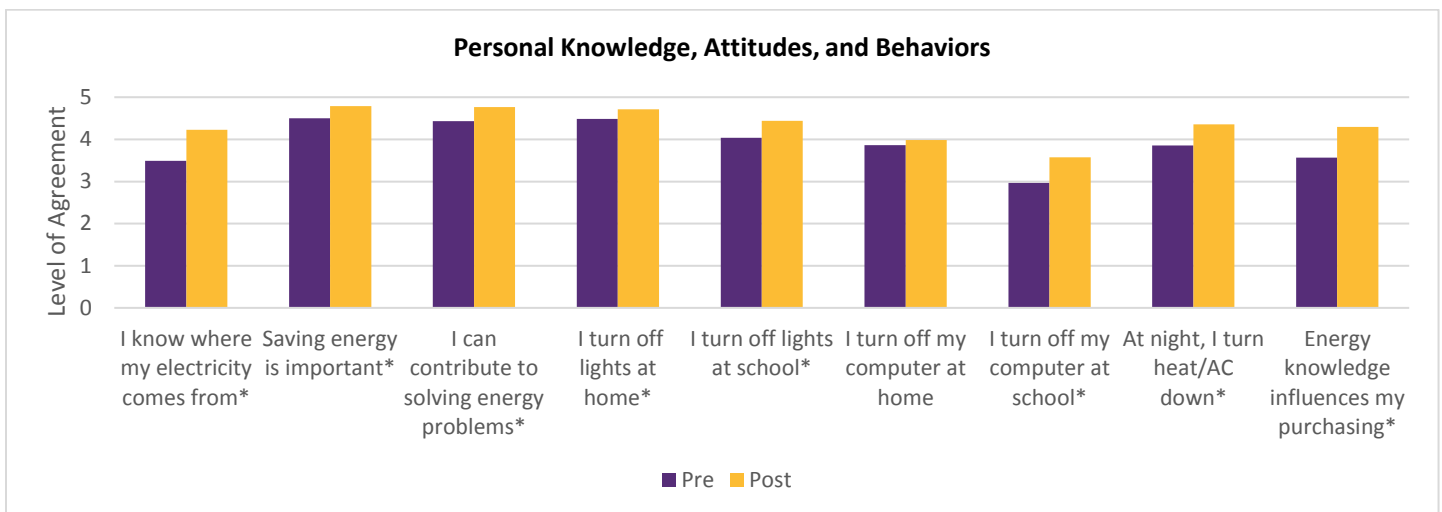


# Increasing Conservation and Enhancing Education

The **Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)** has been offering professional development courses for K-12 teachers since 1997. By the end of 2016, more than 6,000 teachers had participated in KEEP courses. To assess the impact of courses on personal and teaching behaviors, participants are surveyed before and six months after their course. Below is a snapshot of the data collected in 2015 and 2016 from students in the *Energy Education in the Classroom* and *Doable Renewables* courses.

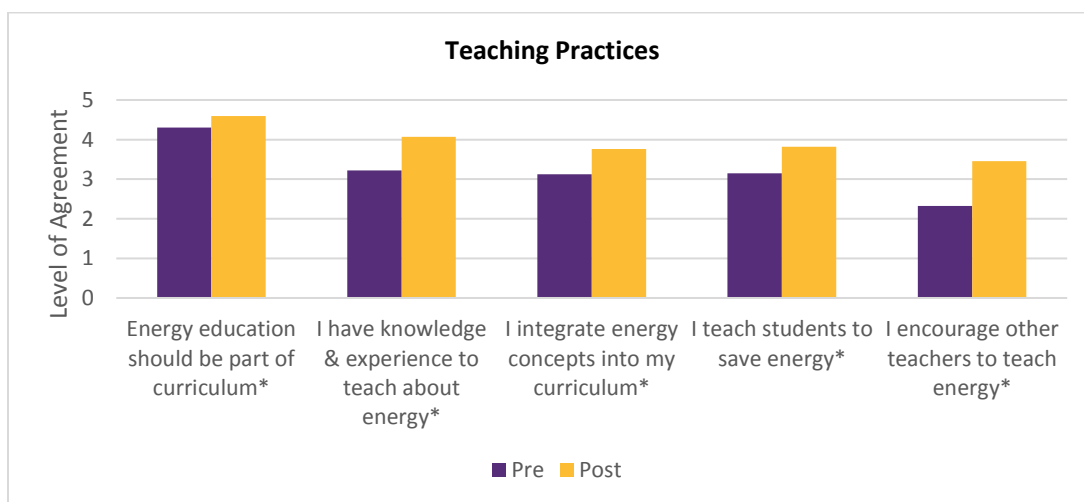
## Changes in Personal Energy Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors

Course participants indicated the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with statements reflecting their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. Results revealed a significant increase in personal conservation behaviors such as turning off lights when leaving a room and turning down the heat/air conditioning at night. (Paired t-tests, n=57, asterisk (\*) indicates significance at the  $p < .05$  level. Response scale: 1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree.)



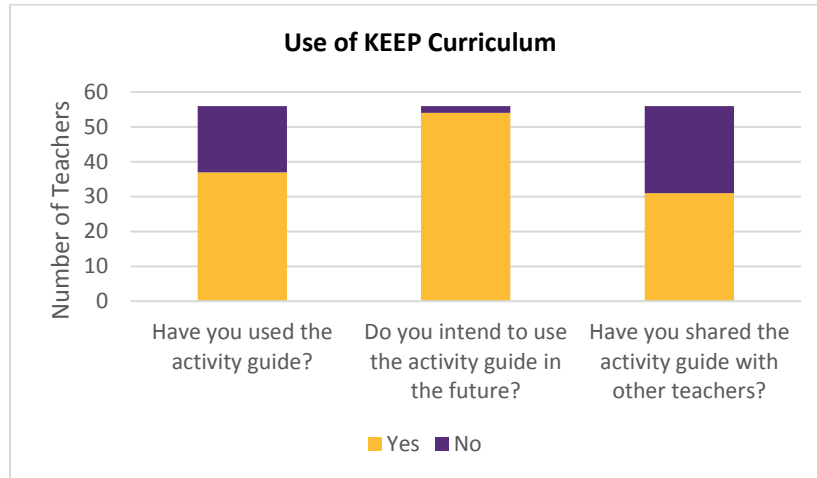
## Changes in Energy-Related Teaching Practices

After completing a KEEP course, teachers agreed more strongly that energy should be included in the curriculum and that they are confident teaching about it. More teachers also taught about energy and encouraged their fellow teachers to teach about energy post-course. (Paired t-tests, n=57, asterisk (\*) indicates significance at the  $p < .05$  level. Response scale: 1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly Agree.)



## Using Energy-Related Resources

KEEP courses introduce participants to print and online resources that support quality energy education. Most participants are now using or planning to use the KEEP activities with their K-12 students. Many of those teachers are also visiting their utility provider's website (51% of participants) and Focus on Energy's website (43% of participants) to increase their own knowledge.



Participants in KEEP courses teach a wide variety of subjects and grades in urban, suburban, and rural schools across Wisconsin. For more information on demographics, data collection and analysis, or previous surveys, contact [Jamie.Mollica@uwsp.edu](mailto:Jamie.Mollica@uwsp.edu). Report prepared by Kendra Liddicoat.

