



ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY'S  
**Green Schools Program**  
Empowering Schools Through Energy Efficiency

## **Student Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award Highlights**

### **Hesperia Unified School District Energy Efficiency Highlights**

- Hesperia has been involved in energy efficiency efforts for over 15 years, and has actively participated in the Green Schools program since 2002.
- Out of 24 schools in the district, 17 Hesperia schools have participated, or are currently participating in the Green Schools Program.
- Mike Viriden, Hesperia District Energy Technician, works closely with the Green Schools program and is thoroughly committed to saving energy and educating students about the importance of energy efficiency.
- As a result of Green Schools activities, the Hesperia District has saved approximately \$660,000, or about 5 million kWh, and 4,400,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, in the five years the district has been working with Green Schools.
- Of these savings, the district returns approximately half to schools participating in the Green Schools program, yielding roughly \$330,000 that the schools can use for further energy efficiency activities and other learning enhancements.
- As long standing Green Schools participants, Sultana High School and Desert Trails High School have been exceptionally active and successful in engaging students as leaders in energy efficiency.

### **Sultana High School Green Schools Highlights (recipient of ASE's Student Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award):**

- Since joining the program in 2002, Sultana Green Schools students have led the school in saving more than \$160,000 – over 1,000,000 kWh. Examples of their energy saving activities are:
  - Plugging TVs, computers and printers into timed power-strips; Pasting “Use half lights” reminder stickers by light switches to encourage classroom teachers and others to turn on only half of the ceiling lights when this provides sufficient lighting; Installing Venetian blinds on all windows that face the sun; Planting deciduous trees in front of south- and west-facing windows;
- After completing the 1-day Student Energy Auditor Training (SEAT), Sultana High School students have gone on to make presentations to two elementary schools in the Hesperia District on what younger students can do to save energy in their schools and homes.
- Students made a convincing presentation of their SEAT energy audit to the entire school staff, highlighting their findings and recommendations. In addition, Sultana students will present the results of their school energy audit at a Board of Education meeting in April 2008.
- Lead Green Schools teacher Mark Ziesmer is working with a local community college to develop a for-credit SEAT course for high schools students.

### **Desert Trails High School Green Schools Highlights (recipient of ASE's Student Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award):**

- Desert Trails High School is a small continuation high school, which offers alternative educational opportunities for its students.
- The Green School program, under the direction of Barbara Ward-Lawe, a school counselor, has had a significant positive impact on many of these students, helping students gain responsibility and self-confidence through their Green Schools learning activities. These include:
  - Participation in the Student Energy Auditor Training (SEAT). With the help of Green Schools SEAT trainer Elric Boardman and Hesperia Energy Manager Mike Viriden, the Desert Trails SEAT students have gone through the training, audited their school, and reached out to elementary schools in the

district by making classroom presentations and helping conduct energy audits. The students are doing student-energy audits of various district facilities in addition to their own school.

- Presentations to other students and schools, explaining how to use the Green Schools tool kit, which includes various tools for analyzing and monitoring energy use.
- Desert Trails has twice participated in Green Schools CFL exchanges—giving out over 1,000 CFLs that recipients pledge they will exchange for incandescent bulbs.
- In Fall 2007, Desert Trails Green Schools students made a presentation to the Hesperia Kiwanis Club about their energy efficiency activities and the importance of energy efficiency in saving money and reducing global warming.

### **Additional Award Event Participant Highlights**

#### **Mesquite Trails Elementary School**

- Mesquite Trails students designed a home energy use survey that was inserted into newsletters going home to parents; given the popularity of this survey, teachers from several other schools in the district adapted the survey as part of their own Green Schools activities.
- Students have formed a school "Energy Patrol" to monitor school energy use; each week the Energy Patrol conducts a school walk through, rating classrooms as "Energy Stars" or "Energy Wasters," based on energy use behaviors. Energy Patrol results are posted in the cafeteria, and Energy Star classrooms are announced during the morning announcements.
- Energy Patrol students are currently working on producing a video that will document ways to save energy at school. They plan to complete the film in April, in time for an Earth Day showing.

#### **Juniper Elementary School Green Schools Highlights**

- Juniper students recently participated in an energy audit training workshop conducted by Sultana High School students, following the Sultana students' completion of the Student Energy Audit Training (SEAT) program.
- Juniper students created and performed a skit about energy conservation for most of the school's classes.

#### **Murrieta Valley Unified School District**

- ***Students, faculty, and staff from all three Murrieta District high schools – Vista Murrieta High School, Murrieta Valley High School, and Creekside High School – will travel to Hesperia to attend the awards event and display their Green Schools energy efficiency activities following the awards presentation.***
- These 3 High Schools will exhibit at the Hesperia award event in order to learn from the Hesperia District's successes, highlight their own initial success with the Green Schools program, including their unique and highly collaborative relationship between with the Hesperia District in promoting student leadership in energy efficiency, across two districts **and** two counties!
- The Murrieta Valley Unified School District's recently joined the Green Schools program in Fall 2007, and has since demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm and dedication to the program.
- 16 of the district's 18 schools are participating in the Green Schools program.
- All three district High Schools have participated in the Student Energy Audit Training (SEAT) program:
  - After completing a joint-training, students from the 3 schools are in the process of conducting school-wide energy audits at each of the three school sites;
  - Once school audits are completed, students from all three schools will conduct energy audits of the Murrieta Valley school district office, a local church, and several small businesses and residences in the Murrieta community;
  - All the Murrieta Green Schools work closely with District energy management and facilities staff
  - Students from the 3 schools maintain email contact and hold periodic meetings to share the results of their efforts and coordinate auditing activities;
- Students at Creekside High School made presentations to students at two Murrieta elementary schools and one middle school in the district on how to use their Green Schools energy auditing tool kits and how to conduct school energy patrols.