

Introduction to Green Schools

The Green Schools Program was initiated by the Alliance to Save Energy in 1996 to improve energy efficiency in K-12 schools and provide education about energy and its connection to the environment. It gives students, teachers, and facilities staff the right tools, training, and support to clean up the environment and save their schools millions of dollars.

A common thread of Green Schools is that students become educators, passing knowledge of energy issues and conservation measures along to their families and communities. The Alliance to Save Energy commends these schools for their efforts and accomplishments in 2002-2003 and for their contributions to “Students Leading the Way.”



Green Schools
*Using Energy Efficiency to
Strengthen Schools*



**ALLIANCE TO
SAVE ENERGY**
Creating an Energy Efficient World

California Green Schools 2002-2003

Meet the next generation of energy consumers. Today, in schools throughout California, students in elementary, middle and high school are learning what it means to be responsible consumers of energy - and these students do not keep this newfound knowledge to themselves - they reach out beyond the school walls and into their surrounding communities.

The message from these students is very clear - ENERGY is a precious natural resource that in its most basic form (fossil fuel) takes millions of years to produce and can be wasted in just a matter of minutes.

Green Schools student activities are as basic as forming energy patrols at their campuses to remind their fellow classmates and teachers that they are wasting energy when they leave the lights on in an empty room, leave the computer on all day, or leave the door open when the air conditioner is running. Students also engage in more complex activities by measuring the efficiency of their schools' boilers, weather-normalizing their savings data and evaluating the life cycle costs of energy-efficient retrofits. Green Schools *Student Advisory Councils* take their "show on the road" by doing presentations of their energy-saving efforts at school board and community meetings.

Our first graders in the Green Schools Program know *"why it is better to wear white in the summer and why it is so hot when they sit next to a window"* because they did the experimentation themselves.

So meet the participants of the Green Schools Program, the next generation of energy-wise consumers. Students, teachers, and local project leaders from 37 of the over 50 California Green Schools have provided a few highlights of their activities in terms of energy instruction, school-wide and community involvement, and results.¹

Martha Lake
California Green Schools Manager

¹ Preliminary estimated energy savings are included below the school summaries wherever energy data was available. The savings information is based on energy consumption data from September 2002 (in some cases March 2002) through February or March 2003. The data is normalized for weather, and adjusted for changes in building status and physical changes. Estimated savings will change as energy consumption data arrives for remaining months of the year.

California Local Project Leaders

The success of the Green Schools Program is a credit to the three Local Project Leaders in California, whose creative and diligent leadership has inspired and encouraged the efforts of teachers, students, custodians and school administrators.

The Southern California Project is led by George Barganier of Environmental Education Program Inc. (EEPIC), (greenschools@sbcglobal.net).

The San Francisco Bay Area Green Schools Project, is led by Mildred Dandridge and Cyane Dandridge of Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI), (mildred@seiinc.org).

The Sacramento Area Project is led by Martha Lake, (martha.lake@attbi.com).