

**Bret Harte Middle School  
Oakland Unified School District  
Bay Area**

**Instruction**

Students were assigned energy topics to research on the internet. On Earth Day a multidisciplinary energy quiz contest was held; students answered questions about energy and received points that could then be used for prizes. The students did a unit on solar energy and enrolled in an after-school program to discuss energy efficiency and why it is important. Activities have ranged from forming an energy council and learning how to use the building audit tools, to building a solar water fountain and doing home retrofits.

**Involvement**

The custodian put "Energy Fast Facts" handouts in every teacher's mailbox. The NRG Council, a group of students who are working in the after school program, audited their school. Based on their findings, a group of students is developing strategies to save energy in the school. They are creating posters to remind people when to turn off lights and monitors. Students were also provided materials to understand energy in their home.

**Results**

Students did some retrofits to their homes - aerators, weather stripping and compact fluorescent lamps. We are engaging audiences through the NRG Council and our outreach is improving. We presented the Green Schools program at a staff meeting and have encouraged others to participate in saving energy throughout the school.

**Estimated Electrical Energy Savings**

School	Term	kWh Savings	\$ Savings	% Savings
Bret Harte	March 2002 - Feb/March 2003	40,408 kWh	\$7,133	9%

**Madison Middle School**  
**Oakland Unified School District**  
**Bay Area**

**Instruction**

The Green Schools committee members have worked to model energy conservation, and communicate with the school population about being part of a Green School. Instruction highlights include:

March 2003 - Ms. Casioppo taught a one-week unit on Energy and Conservation in her History/Social Studies classes which was very successful. She connected it to current events and a world view of economics and conscious living. The essential question asked was "How can we conserve resources?" Ms. Casioppo will teach a similar unit in her Science classes. She has also guest lectured in some of the other teachers' advisory classes.

April 2003 - Ms. Baker taught a two-week unit on "Saving the Earth/Conserving Resources" in her Physical Education and Advisory classes. The concepts "Sustainability" and "Ecological Footprint" were introduced. On Earth Day each class passed a globe around a circle and answered the question, "How can I make the world a better place?" At the end of the day Mr. McDermott's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class from next-door Sobrante Park Elementary School came over to drum for the "Earth Run" a walk/run for Peace and Energy Conservation.

**Action**

We used the Green Schools tool kit to determine energy use and misuse around the school. We discovered that the halls were over-lit. Mr. Pugh turned off some hall lights and put a note on the master switch. The head custodian would not allow these lamps to be off.

At Madison we have raised consciousness about energy conservation by posting SAVE ENERGY suggestions in rooms, and by having a poster contest with the theme ENERGY CONSERVATION. All posters are displayed in the hallway near the office. Photos of the 3 winners will be taken with their Green School t-shirt awards.

Mr. Pugh has been instrumental in turning off heaters and lights after school hours. The heater in the Boys' PE office had not been off since the beginning of the school Year ... Mr. Pugh turned it off! The heater on the Girls' side started to do the same thing. Mr. Pugh was able to troubleshoot immediately. Mr. Pugh attached an Energy Miser to the soda machine in the teachers' room.

## **Involvement**

The staff and students at Madison Middle School know we are a Green School and are active participants in working to save energy and create funds for the school. Through word-of-mouth, poster contest, posters on walls in classrooms and hallways, notes in mailboxes, signs and suggestions on how to conserve energy posted in classrooms, and general consciousness-raising, we are helping everyone be involved at school and at home in conserving energy.

We plan to create our ENERGY COUNCIL of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for the final 6 weeks of this school year. We will take all volunteers to: pick up trash, make sure lights are turned off and not used when natural light is available and be Energy Conservers.

We have connected with the community by joining with Sobrante Park Elementary School on Earth Day for the Earth Run and drumming. We hope to reach families through students.

## **Results**

We have saved energy, raised consciousness, educated kids, educated adults, formed a tie between elementary and middle schools, and made Madison Middle School a more beautiful place!