

## Did You Know?!?

A two-degree adjustment to your thermostat setting (lower in winter, higher in summer) can lower your utility bills by four percent and prevent 500 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year.

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PEAK is a project of  
The Energy Coalition,  
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For many PEAK educators, summertime means the end of another school year. For PEAK, summertime means the beginning of another peak demand season. In California, peak demand season begins in July and lasts through October. Read below to learn more about the *Summer PEAK Energy Adventure* and *California's Electricity Traffic Jam*, two ways PEAK continues to engage teachers, students, and their families as smart energy managers to help cut California's peak demand.

Sarah Mills, PEAK Program Manager

## Irvine students address summer peak demand for the fourth consecutive year during Summer PEAK Energy Adventure!

This summer, a new group of fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students in Irvine will learn that they can be part of the solution to the energy crisis that affects California's power system during summer months. Over 50 students will take part in the *Summer PEAK Energy Adventure*, a two-week class offered as part of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation summer science camp. The Adventure, taught by veteran PEAK teachers Kathy Marvin and Laurie Hartstein, engages students in learning the importance of smart energy management during the time of the year when it is most crucial in California, the hot summer months. Students are turned on to the world of smart energy management through building a series of model cars powered by different energy sources while studying the four PEAK Student Energy Actions and learning about the electricity traffic jam and how to avoid black outs. Highlights of Summer PEAK will include:



- > A field trip to tour a local power plant;
- > Race Day, when cars are judged for speed; and
- > Presentation Day, when students learn more

## Students in San Diego learn how to avoid an Electricity Traffic Jam

This spring, PEAK collaborated with San Diego Gas & Electric to develop *California's Electricity Traffic Jam*, an activity book that arms students and their families with the knowledge they need to respond to peak energy demand. The *Electricity Traffic Jam* activity book, which was disseminated to over 122,000 3rd - 5th grade students in San Diego County with help from the San Diego County Office of Education, engages youth as "smart energy managers" by presenting three simple energy concepts:

1. Electricity is brought to us via a complex state-wide system.
2. The system can get congested (causing an "electricity traffic jam"), particularly on hot afternoons.
3. Every person can change behaviors to help keep the system working smoothly.

Youth discover these concepts by following the story of *Bulbman the Energy Hero* and *The Energy Sucker*, and apply their learning in a series of fun activities. Each student who then creates and shares their family's smart energy action plan with PEAK is entered to win a family 4-pack of tickets to Disneyland!

## Check out the new features at PEAKstudents.net!

Are you looking for a fun place for you or your students to share their conservation stories and tips? Did you know that our energy hero Bulbman's real name is Peter Sparker? Find all this and much more at PEAKstudents.net, including:

- New format; user-friendly and easy to navigate
- Additional teacher resources
- Message board moderated by PEAK staff to exchange ideas with students and teachers from California, Illinois, and Sweden
- Profiles on our energy hero, Bulbman as well as his nemesis the Energy Sucker and sidekick Energy Monster
- Download the California's Electricity Traffic Jam Booklet, a collection of fun activities and games to teach students about energy conservation just in time for summer

Also don't forget to visit favorite features like the PEAK Energy Challenge Games and Quizzes and Energy Facts and Saving Tips to help your students and their families become smart energy managers.

## International PEAK Day - May 11, 2005

International PEAK Day 2005 was an opportunity for PEAK students in California, Chicago, and Sweden to participate in simultaneous activities in a global effort toward smart energy management. The highlight of this year's International PEAK Day was an innovative pilot project that sent a delegation of three PEAK students, three PEAK educators, and the PEAK staff in southern California to Gothenburg, Sweden to take part in a U.S./Sweden PEAK Knowledge & Learning Exchange. The week-long Exchange allowed teachers and students from each country to teach new concepts to one another, experience unique hands-on activities, as well as share the best strategies for persuasively communicating the PEAK concepts in their homes, schools, and communities. Kathy Marvin, PEAK teacher delegate from Irvine, had the following to say about the Exchange: "There couldn't be a better way to take all of the things the students have learned in their 13 years, let alone what they've learned in the past four years through PEAK, and roll them into one week where they come alive."

