



Moving forward into 2007, the PEAK community reflects on some key accomplishments that have set the stage for an exciting New Year. Energy Appreciation Day was commemorated on November 9th as an opportunity to create greater awareness and appreciation of energy. The event got students talking about the many uses of energy in their lives, and served to “kick-off” the PEAK curriculum with a broad introduction to PEAK concepts. Energy Appreciation Day was yet another occasion for PEAK students to become smart energy managers in their homes, schools and communities.

As with all PEAK educational opportunities, Energy Appreciation Day taught the science of energy, while instilling an ethic of smart energy management in our students. By participating in the Energy Appreciation Day activities and taking those same activities home for parents to participate in as well, PEAK families were able to take a closer look at the role energy plays in our lives every day.

As you will see in the articles below, Energy Appreciation Day was a wonderful success in that students, parents and teachers took action to raise their awareness about energy consumption. Looking ahead into 2007, maybe Energy Appreciation Day can be EVERY DAY!

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[PEAK Student Derrick Washington Says it's "Time to Save Energy"](#)



Congratulations to Derrick Washington from Wharton 5th Grade Center in Illinois for creating the winning entry for the PEAK Energy Slogan Contest. Over 220 entries were received from PEAK schools throughout California and Illinois. Derrick's slogan, "Time to Save Energy," was selected because it both reinforces the need for urgent action and reminds others to consider the time of day when using energy by avoiding PEAK times.

Derrick's slogan will be used on PEAK outreach materials throughout the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year.

[Teachers Share their Energy Appreciation Day 2006 Best Practices](#)

Energy Fact

For every degree households lower their thermostats in winter, there is a savings of about 3 percent on heating bills.

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2, 4, 6, 8... What do we appreciate? Energy!

Take the Energy Appreciation Day Challenge
on November 9th, 2006



Our class is saving energy by:

1

2

3

Did you know...?


- > Electricity comes from power plants, which often burn fossil fuels and cause air pollution
- > Conserving power prevents pollution and blackouts
- > Kids have the power to take simple actions to save energy

Enter the PEAK Energy Slogan Contest and Win an IPOD NANO!!!



Learn more and enter the contest at www.peakstudents.net

Save energy everyday at school:

- > Turn off some of the lights, and open the shades in the classroom 
- > Turn off computers off when they're not in use 
- > Turn off the lights every time the class leaves the room 
- > Tell other kids what your class is doing today 

The Northern Illinois Energy Project (NIEP) is a partnership of the Council of the Board of Education, Illinois Department of Consumer Advocacy group, the City of Chicago, and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

Thank you to all PEAK teachers who shared their Energy Appreciation Day activities. For more ideas, visit the [PEAK website](#) and click on Teachers' Corner.

"As a class we toured the school and turned off lights that weren't needed or turned off half of them to conserve energy. We completely turned off the hall lights and used the natural lighting from the skylights to light our path. We discussed how we could use these same tactics at home and we all agreed we would try the same things at home. The great thing is some of these things have really stuck with the kids. We use half-lighting almost always now and other lights are turned on and off as needed. The kids are also really conscious of how much the computers are on when they aren't in use. I appreciated having Energy Appreciation Day!"

-Danielle Munksgard
Carter Elementary, Palm Desert, CA

"We had a great time on Energy Appreciation Day. We turned off all non-essential lights, equipment, etc. for 2 hours in the morning. We then used your lesson plans to meet with each class and talk about the concept of energy and appreciating what we have. We involved the 1st and 2nd Graders as well in our class discussions. We used the time to pass out the student CFLs to grades 3-5. To cap it all off, our cafeteria staff served an "Energy-Free" lunch that day. Cold sack lunches and a picnic-style cafeteria arrangement on the floor really helped bring home the message we were trying to get across. It was a lot of fun and I know the kids really enjoyed it."

-Bob Nelson
German Valley Grade School, German Valley, IL

"The fourth grades at Juan Cabrillo celebrated Energy Appreciation Day by building in each of our classrooms a "town" consisting of the paper footprints of eight houses arranged along a "Main Street." The students wired each house with a light bulb and a switch and prepared a energy use log for an average school day. Several students were the "Power Company" and drew the paper footprints of three power plants, situated somewhat out of town! We wired the houses into a power grid and hooked up one power plant- our hydro-electric (really a battery). Using a model clock, we started the day, each house turning on the power as they woke up (according to their prepared energy use log). Very soon we had a brownout, and had to bring another power plant on line, this time our methane burner from the captured landfill gasses (also really a battery). As the student went through their "energy day" the class helped the power company create a power plant schedule that got rid of those pesky brown-outs. This activity provided a very good model of the PEAK power use period in an average day, one I don't think they'll forget!"

-Susan Baltrushes
Juan Cabrillo Elementary, Santa Monica, CA

Teachers from Sweden, Illinois, & California Meet to Discuss Energy Education



2006 marked the fifth consecutive year of knowledge sharing efforts between PEAK educators in the U.S. and Sweden. In all, 19 educators from Nacka, Sweden visited southern California with the aim of expanding PEAK in Nacka to include elementary-aged students as smart energy management practitioners. To aide the Swedish educators through the PEAK adoption process, this year's Exchange included the first-time involvement of PEAK educators from Northern Illinois, who participate as part of the NIEP-sponsored PEAK program based in Chicago.

Highlights of the 2006 PEAK Exchange included a Teacher Orientation and Training for the new Swedish teachers, five PEAK classroom site visits, a tour of the

AES Long Beach power plant, and a half- day collaborative planning session.

The exchange was actively supported by Eswood Grade School, Ford Elementary School, German Valley Elementary School, Nacka Kommun Primary Schools, North Verdemont Elementary School, Sierra Vista Middle School, Troy Middle School, Washington Charter Elementary School, City of Irvine, City of Palm Desert, Nacka Kommun, City of San Bernardino, AES Alamos, Northern Illinois Energy Project, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company®, and The Energy Coalition.

Get Out Your Calendar - Upcoming PEAK Events

January 26 - Teacher Orientation, Jefferson Elementary (San Francisco)

February 2 - Advanced Teacher Orientation, Desert Sands Unified School District (Palm Desert, CA)

February 2 - School Kick-off, Blackhawk Middle School (Cook County, IL)

February 6 - Teacher Orientation, Benchley- Wienberger Elementary & TIP Academy (San Diego)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20			
24	25	26	27			
31						

Enhance your PEAK Experience with a BP A+ for Energy Grant

BP has announced the third year of BP's A+ for Energy Program. BP will award up to \$5 million in grants to K-12 teachers for innovative classroom, afterschool, extra-curricular, or summer activities focused on energy and/or energy conservation.

Grants of \$5,000 or \$10,000 will be awarded directly to teachers, based on the budget submitted with the application. Last year, PEAK teachers in Palm Desert and Corona, California received A+ for Energy grants.

All teachers in California and teachers in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois are eligible to apply. The deadline for submitting an application is **March 23, 2007**.

Visit <http://www.aplusforenergy.com/> for more information.

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web: <http://peakstudents.net>

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