

A green Valentine to everyone in the PEAK community! Join us this Valentine's Day in giving love to the planet; teach a PEAK lesson, ask us for help organizing a CFL fundraiser, take your PEAK students on a field trip, or just take some time to discuss the 4 PEAK Student Energy Actions with your class.

Read on to discover ways that others in the PEAK community have been caring for the planet and for unique opportunities to spread the "good energy"!

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PEAK Student is Awarded New Bicycle



A school-wide award ceremony was held last month at San Francisco's Spring Valley Elementary School to honor the winners of the 2007 Energy Appreciation Day Poster Contest. Bulbman recognized first place winner, Shirley Mei, for her creative abilities and energy awareness by presenting her the grand prize: a brand new pink bicycle. Jorge Ortiz was also recognized and received an Honorable Mention Certificate, a self-generating

flashlight, and other cool PEAK gear. Shirley and Jorge were recognized in front of their teachers, peers, and the principal of Spring Valley, Lonnie Chin.

The rest of the students were excited and proud to be rewarded by another visit from their superhero, Bulbman. They showed him that not only have they learned the science behind saving energy from all of their hard work doing PEAK labs in class, but that they remembered the 4 PEAK Energy Actions he taught them at their Kick-Off Event and are on their way to becoming Smart Energy



"Thanks so much for the compact fluorescent lightbulbs! They have made a big impression on the students and the staff. The 4th, 5th, and 6th graders were so excited when we handed them out. We have put them around campus and they have brightened up the rooms!"

- Phil Burrow, PEAK San Diego Teacher

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Managers!

"We Heart PEAK"

We at the PEAK team know that it is talented professionals like you that really bring the program alive in the classroom and beyond. Here are some recent "best practices" and tips from some of our star PEAK teachers:



4 Corners Activity:

"I took the 4 PEAK Student Energy Actions and wrote them at the top of a big piece of paper and placed them at 4 stations around the room. The kids (in groups of 4-5) rotated through the stations and kept adding their ideas on how they could apply the energy actions in their lives. After each group had added to each topic, we came together to discuss what we came up with."

-Katina Dahl, PEAK Illinois Teacher

Tips:

- Use a wooden clothes pin the grab hot motors during Motor Lab #2
- An emory board is handy to sand the copper magnetic coating off of the arms of the red coil in Motor Lab #1
- Make demos of copper magnetic motors in different shapes and sizes for Motor Lab #1

-Thanks to our San Francisco Bay Area PEAK Teachers for those pointers!

Please call or email us to share any best practices or PEAK classroom tips!

Take a Field Trip on Us!



Have you often wanted to take your students an energy related field trip but didn't have the funds or know how to organize it?

Captain Planet to the rescue!
Through a generous grant from the Captain Planet Foundation, PEAK is proud to

offer the opportunity to tour a local power plant--including non-fossil fuel generated operations like wind farms, methane, or solar. In the classroom, PEAK students learn about the fundamentals of electricity and magnetism, and how electricity is generated. What

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better way to reinforce this learning than through a guided tour of a power plant, where your students can experience the electricity story first-hand and talk with the engineers that make sure our lights are on every day?

Contact your PEAK Program Manager to take advantage of this special opportunity!

Love the Planet with Advanced Winter Energy Saving Tips

Winter is a perfect time to discuss the importance of energy conservation and efficiency. The days are shorter and we depend more on electricity to light our homes and schools and less on natural daylight. In cold climates, we are thinking about conserving natural gas to save on our heating bills. Here are some great tips to keep you green all winter long:



- Exterior lighting is one of the best places to use CFLs because of their long life. In a cold climate, be sure to buy a lamp with a cold weather ballast since standard CFLs may not work below 40F.
- Use outdoor lights with a photocell unit or motion sensor so they will turn on only at night or when someone is present. A combined photocell and motion sensor will increase your energy savings even more!
- Consider light wall colors to minimize the need for artificial lighting.
- Install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads to save on hot water.
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120F. Lowering it just 10F can save 3%-5% on bills!

**Source: U.S. Department of Energy*

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