

## National Environmental Education Week 2007

### Discovering the Energy All Around Us



With energy topics regularly frequenting the news and electronic gadgets from iPods to cell phones increasingly common in the hands of students, there is no doubt that youth play a powerful role in the day-to-day use of energy.

The [National Environmental Education and Training Foundation](#) is therefore pleased to announce a unique partnership between the [Alliance to Save Energy](#) and [National Environmental Education Week 2007](#) for a *special focus on energy*, with FREE energy curricula, resources, and activities available [online](#). No participant will be required to implement energy activities, but if you are searching for a focus for EE Week the following sample curricula can get your students thinking about energy and how their daily use of it can affect the environment:

- **[Energy Hog](#)**. The Alliance to Save Energy's *Energy Hog* program is an online computer activity that reveals "energy hogs" in our homes that can be eliminated, thus saving energy and protecting the environment. The website also includes the Energy Hog Challenge, a set of classroom activities that can be downloaded for free. Appropriate for 3rd- 6th grade students.
- **[Discover How Trees Produce and Save Energy](#)**. The National Arbor Day Foundation's National Poster Contest curricula from 2005 offers free lesson plans and activities demonstrating the link between trees and energy. Appropriate for middle school students.
- **[Alliance to Save Energy Downloadable Lesson Plans](#)**. According to the Alliance to Save Energy, many schools spend more on energy costs than on computers and textbooks combined. A number of these free, downloadable curricula are used in the Alliance to Save Energy's Green Schools Program—a unique, collaborative effort by teachers, administrators, and facilities and maintenance staff which reduces school energy costs while at the same time educating students. *More great energy curricula for all grade levels can be found at our [Energy Curricula](#) page.*

Once you have curricula in place, take the lesson out of the classroom by conducting energy activities around home or school:

- **[Find Energy Leakers and Energy Stars](#)**. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 75% of the energy used for appliances in the typical home is consumed when the appliances are "turned off". This power is consumed by features such as cell phones that, when left plugged in, slowly "leak" small amounts of energy over time. Encourage your students to document the number of Energy Leakers in their homes and school and then

have them report back to class. Check out the [Energy Star website](#) for more information.

- **Change a Light.** Replace just four standard bulbs in your school with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), and you'll reduce your electricity bills by more than \$100 over the lives of those bulbs! More importantly, you'll save energy and prevent the emission of five thousand pounds of carbon dioxide. The U.S. EPA's *Change a Light, Change the World* campaign provides resources and promotional materials for how to engage in a Change a Light campaign in your school. Find out more at the [Change a Light website](#).
- **Move the Thermostat 3 Degrees.** According to the [Center for a New American Dream](#) heating and cooling represent one of the biggest chunks of home energy consumption in the U.S. By simply turning the thermostat down three degrees in the winter and up three degrees in the summer, you can prevent the emission of nearly 1,100 pounds of carbon dioxide annually. Classes or even entire schools can join New American Dream's Turn the Tide Campaign and track their energy savings. Go to the [Turn the Tide website](#) to learn more. *For more energy activities for all grade levels, see our new [Energy Activities page](#).*

*Are you already planning different activities for EE Week?* No problem! In addition to its energy resources, the EE Week website also offers links to a wealth of general environmental education resources and curricula for just about any topic and grade level. Here are just two of them:

- **[Classroom Earth](#).** Classroom Earth serves as a one-stop shop for the most frequently used standards-based EE curriculum available for grades preK-12. Find out more at [www.classroomearth.org](http://www.classroomearth.org)
- **[Center for Environmental Education Online](#).** CEE Online's Curriculum Review Library is an excellent way to quickly and easily search for curriculum by topic. The site also explains how each curriculum adheres to the educational standards set forth by the North American Association for Environmental Education.

## National Arbor Day Foundation Joins EE Week as National Partner

Offers Free Educational Resources to All Participating Schools



While there are countless energy activities teachers can implement *inside* the classroom, there are plenty of ways to explore energy *outside* as well. One way is to examine the many benefits of planting trees. Research has shown that planting native trees offers shade and protection that cools buildings in the summer and protects them from wind and cold in the winter, thus yielding significant savings on energy costs.

Thanks to the generous support of the [National Arbor Day Foundation](#), all schools participating in EE Week are now eligible to receive one of two free resources to be used in conjunction with EE Week tree-planting activities. *Arbor Day: the*

*Holiday that Makes a Difference* video highlights the birth of Arbor Day in 1872, describes the many benefits of trees on the environment and our everyday lives, and offers inspiring examples of young people who are keeping the Arbor Day tradition alive by planting and caring for trees in their communities. The second resource, the *Tree Planting Resource Kit* is designed for high school students and is brimming with step-by-step advice for initiating community tree-planting events.

To request your free kit or video for use in National EE Week 2007, simply [register for free](#) online. You will receive an email message directing you how to access these special Arbor Day resources.

## Help Spread the Word About EE Week 2007!

Many EE Week participants have contacted our offices to inquire about how to get the message out about EE Week to their networks. We just launched a new promotions page of our website that includes our downloadable logo and PDF copies of our promotional posters. Check out our [Promotions Page](#) to access these resources. Thank you!

## About the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation

*Chartered by Congress in 1990, the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) is a private non-profit organization dedicated to the strategic advancement of environmental literacy and education in its many forms. Since 2004, NEETF has coordinated the implementation of National Environmental Education Week, a weeklong event designed to increase the educational impact of Earth Day by creating a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums.*

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