

National Energy Education Development

NEED Project Summary - 2008

Sue H. Morrow and Ullis Newton Elementary Schools - Henderson, Nevada

“Making the Connection with Energy Education”

Our first goal was to deepen our understanding of energy. Our class used NEED Infobooks to compare and contrast renewable and nonrenewable energy sources. Energy Source Sudoku and other energy puzzles helped to reinforce energy facts. We applied our energy comprehension to construct energy source exhibits. To strengthen our knowledge further, we designed a “Transparency Show” to highlight major energy sources. Next, we initiated a project that would allow us to judge the effectiveness of conventional and alternative transportation fuels. We examined transportation fuel facts and then crafted exhibits that brought to light the economic and environmental impacts of various transportation fuels. We evaluated the advantages and disadvantages of fuels through debates. To boost our understanding of the science of energy, we conducted energy experiments.

Now we had the ability to use our energy knowledge in a new situation. We designed energy games and invited second graders to attend our “Energy Game Day.” We showcased Energy carnival games at our annual school carnival. We participated in another annual school event called “Family Fun Night.” Students and their parents rotated through stations to conduct hands-on science and math activities. We set up an “Energy Star Pledge” booth. We conducted a school-wide “Energy Star- Take the Pledge” Campaign. We gave out CFL bulbs to those parents who signed and returned the pledge.

A recycling survey was sent home to encourage families to continue or begin curb-side recycling. “The Energy Superheroes” was an energy video that was written and produced by students. The video summarized our understanding of renewable and nonrenewable energy sources.

Our experience with energy activities was given a big boost through our involvement with authentic opportunities. We filmed a PSA to encourage our community to save energy by using CFL bulbs. Our commercial was aired on a local T.V. channel. We designed original fashions, using recyclable materials.

To teach our community about the importance of reusing and recycling we presented the “Trash-Chic” Fashion Show at a local mall.

-- More --

We submitted original work to community "Save the Environment" art contest. Imaginative posters were created to emphasize the importance of Eco-friendly living. Our posters were displayed at a grand opening celebration that featured Nevada's first solar powered community.

Energy lessons and activities helped to deepen our understanding of energy sources and issues. Student leadership activities enabled us to use our energy experiences to involve other students and their families. Involvement in authentic opportunities helped us to reveal our energy expertise within our community.

"Making the Connection with Energy Education"