



*Building Bright Futures*

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***Jeffco Schools Save Energy and Earn Rewards  
in "ReNew Our Schools" Competition***

**GOLDEN, Colo. (January 14, 2016)** – This fall, students in twelve Jeffco schools competed in the month-long ReNew Our Schools competition to save energy in their schools and homes. Pomona High School and Campbell Elementary took first place, winning \$20,000 each. Falcon Bluffs Middle School and Eiber Elementary took second place, winning \$15,000 each.

The \$70,000 in prize money was donated by the Colorado Energy Office and will be put towards reductions in building energy use or on-site renewable energy. The winning schools will present a pitch to Energy Management on how to spend their prize money. Previous winning schools, in other school districts, directed their winnings towards occupancy sensors that turn off lights when rooms become empty, "solatubes" which bring sunlight to interior spaces, LED lighting retrofits, or a small array of solar panels.

The twelve schools (listed below) saved a total of 40,000 kWh, for approximately \$4,000 in savings to the district during the month of competition. Making projections based on these early successes puts annual savings around \$50,000 for the twelve schools involved. When scaling up the impact of savings in these schools to potential district-wide initiatives, annual savings reach over \$500,000 when considering the 154 schools in Jeffco.

The real-time data offered from the "eGauges" used to monitor energy usage has provided a platform for student engagement and advanced operational troubleshooting for facilities personnel. The successful groundwork laid by this competition will enable Jeffco Public School's Energy Management team to create behaviorally based student engagement energy savings programs for the future, in which students and community members will be able to access, track, and begin to understand the characteristics of energy usage in Jeffco schools.

"In recent years, the district has refocused its efforts in the area of utility conservation. The initial goal was to keep up with increases in utility costs, and the district has shown consistent reduction of its utility bills. The goal is the prudent use of our utility dollars, and for each dollar saved to go back into the classroom," said Executive Director of Facilities and Construction Tim Reed.

The participating schools were divided into two cohorts and each school competed for points in three areas: School Measured Savings, Home Energy Actions, and School Energy Actions. School Measured Savings is the amount of energy used in comparison to normal usage with weather removed as a variable. Home Energy Actions are pledge forms that students complete side-by-side with the person

paying the energy bills at home. School Energy Actions include many tasks such as starting an environmental club, creating a poster, creating a video, creating a lesson plan, and conducting a full scale energy audit of the school. Several schools earned all possible points in the School Energy Action category which speaks both to the commitment of school administrators and school-wide engagement in the program.

#### Cohort 1

Campbell Elementary  
Eiber Elementary  
Foster Elementary  
Patterson International  
Secrest Elementary  
Vivian Elementary

#### Cohort 2

Bell Middle School  
Deer Creek Middle School  
Falcon Bluffs Middle School  
Bear Creek High School  
Lakewood High School  
Pomona High School

All participation in the program is voluntary. The score-keeping begins on day one. To be successful in the competition each school must attempt to build buy-in and to increase awareness during the meager allotment of twenty school days. Though teachers are given many resources on how to bring energy and conservation into lessons for all grade levels, no specific direction is given on what to teach.

Participation in the competition increased awareness among students and teachers regarding how energy is used at school and how daily decisions can bring about reductions or increases in energy usage. Outside of school, students and teachers are sharing what they've learned, and beginning to discuss low cost energy saving measures that can be used to save on monthly energy bills. Moving forward, the schools will incorporate conservation minded behavior into everyday activity and continue to challenge themselves to save.

“During the competition, small groups of students emerged to lead their peers, teachers, and administrators in setting a new bar for conservation-minded behavior at each school. It was truly inspiring to see the impact that these students had on their communities and it was impressive to see the reductions in energy use that resulted from their actions,” said Jeffco Public Schools Energy Manager Hal Corin. “This program helped to build community around energy savings, which is an ultimate goal of energy management at Jeffco.”

Local sustainability professionals volunteered to share their expertise with students, and were particularly valuable in supporting student led efforts in completing each school's energy audit. These audits consisted of quantifying energy used by different appliances, taking temperature measurements, and checking lighting levels in each space using light meters. Schools reviewed the data and then pursued energy conservation measures. The top performing schools were able to quickly infuse conservation-minded practices into their daily routines.

Iconergy, NREL, McKinstry, Group 14, Siemens, Xcel Energy, Hord Coplan Macht, and the University of Colorado graciously volunteered their time to serve as mentors during the competition. The ReNew Our Schools program is administered by the Center for Resource Conservation. This is the first time an energy saving competition of this scope and magnitude has taken place in Jeffco Public Schools.

#### **About Jeffco Public Schools**



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Jeffco Public Schools has been providing educational excellence for more than 60 years. Approximately nine percent of all the K-12 students in Colorado attend a Jeffco School. Our mission is to provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future. The district has 155 schools on 168 campuses. Additional information about Jeffco Public Schools can be found at [JeffcoPublicSchools.org](http://JeffcoPublicSchools.org).

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