

***Electrifying Energy Conservation Underway at Jeffco Public Schools***

*Empowered students help their schools reduce energy and save money*

**GOLDEN, Colo. (Oct. 27, 2016)** – Twelve Jeffco schools are competing to see who can save the most electricity during a month-long energy saving event known as ReNew Our Schools (RNOS). The five-week competition empowers students to save energy in their schools and homes while earning great awards. It is a program of the nonprofit Center for ReSource Conservation, based in Boulder. The funds for administering this competition were generously donated by the Innovo Foundation, a private family foundation based in Boulder. This is the second year Jeffco Public Schools has participated in the program.

The current RNOS competition promises a total of \$60,000 in prize money towards energy-efficient retrofits and/or equipment for top-performing schools. The participating schools, listed below, are divided into two cohorts, with the elementary schools competing against each other in the first cohort, and the middle and high schools competing against each other in the second.

<b>Cohort 1</b>	<b>Cohort 2</b>
Blue Heron Elementary	Carmody Middle School
Bradford K-8	Creighton Middle School
Little Elementary	West Jefferson Middle School
West Jefferson Elementary	Chatfield High School
West Woods Elementary	Ralston Valley High School
Westridge Elementary	Wheat Ridge High School

According to Tim Reed, Executive Director of Facilities and Construction, in this competition and in other conservation efforts, “The goal is the prudent use of our utility dollars, and for each dollar saved to go back into the classroom.”

This year’s competition is off to an incredible start! In the first two weeks of competition, the combined efforts of the twelve participating schools have achieved an average of 13 percent in energy savings. If these collective savings are kept up through the year, these schools would save Jeffco over 1,000,000 kWh and over \$60,000 this year.

The participating schools focus on saving energy by changing energy behaviors and infrastructure: turning off lights, delamping over-lit rooms, unplugging devices, and turning computers off. Not only do students conserve in school, they take their lessons home with them to find ways to conserve in their own houses.



During competition, each competing school is equipped with an eGauge energy monitor donated by two Colorado companies – eGauge and Magnelab – that provides the students and staff with real-time measurements of their energy use.

Each school also is assigned mentor-volunteers from organizations such as Hord Coplan Macht, McKinstry, NREL, Bureau of Land Management, Group 14 Engineering, Engineering Economics, Xcel Energy, Bolder Energy Engineers, and Brendle Group, who help student groups understand these tools, conduct energy audits, and reduce their energy use.

"This program is a great way for kids to learn about energy use in their buildings so they can develop a better understanding of how they operate," said Justin Zakoren, Resource Conservation Advocate for Jeffco Public Schools. "The knowledge they gain from this competition will help them be more conscious of how they use energy and allow them to think critically about ways in which we can improve the district as a whole."

The Center for ReSource Conservation will announce the winning schools on Nov. 2. Justin Zakoren is available to take members of the media on tours to see the school efforts.

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

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 serves over 86,000 students at 155 schools on 168 campuses. Find [Jeffco Public Schools](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

#### **About the Center for ReSource Conservation:**

Founded in 1976, the Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC) is a nonprofit social enterprise dedicated to putting conservation into action. Its programs serve more than 50,000 community members each year and make it easy to conserve water, energy, and materials. Learn more at [conservationcenter.org](http://conservationcenter.org) or [conservationcenter.org/renew-our-schools](http://conservationcenter.org/renew-our-schools).

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