



Efficiency Works

Platte River
Power Authority

Estes Park
Light and Power

Fort Collins
Utilities

Longmont
Power &
Communications

Loveland
Water and Power



“Kids have such amazing ideas if we just listen to them,”

Sol Miller,
Teacher Representative
on the Green Team
at Walt Clark Middle
School

Loveland Water and Power - Energy Education Assistance Program:

It never hurts to ask, so learned a child advocate disguised as an energy services professional.

Three years ago, Loveland Water and Power Customer Relations representatives met with facilities professionals from the Thompson R2J School District to resolve an irrigation issue. After the hard work was finished, the conversation drifted to the disparity of funds in the classrooms of R2J. The energy services professional from the district said he knew of teachers that would like to teach students about energy efficiency and water conservation but lacked the funding to do research projects that transform a concept from a chapter in a book to a life lesson.

Energy Education Assistance Program:

After the meeting, the Loveland folks peered into what remained in the budget. With just a little left in an unused fund, the division decided to use funding that might otherwise be rolled into another year and create a competitive grant whereby teachers and students could apply for money to fund field trips, school projects or curriculum materials to learn about the importance of efficiency and conservation

The Energy Efficiency Assistance Program was born to educate and actively engage primary and secondary students in energy efficiency and water conservation projects. Staff invited all Loveland schools, both public and private, to apply.

The Green Team at Walt Clark Middle School won the inaugural grant to fund their idea of a small, solar-powered information hub to be placed in the Walt Clark cafeteria for all students to use. The idea came from an eight-grade girl on the Green Team. Solar panels mounted on the south-facing entrance to the school now power two LCD television screens in the cafeteria. The screens keep students posted on school activities, the lunch menu, athletic team schedules and scores, birthdays and club happenings. The second screen displays the amount of energy produced by the solar panels and also energy saving tips that students can bring home with them. Students monitor the energy as it comes into the school. The solar hub is a sustainable project that will teach students the importance and efficiency of renewable energy sources for years to come.

Two more schools received grants in subsequent years. Lucille Erwin Middle School won the 2012 award to build to greenhouses on campus to not only grow vegetables for sale, but to involve students from all three grades that attend the school. The industrial tech kids designed the buildings, the math kids designed a budget, the economics kids wrote a business plan, the consumer family kids chose the plants they wanted to use in their cooking lessons and all of the science kids raised and studied the plants. Since the erection of the greenhouses, students and staff received additional grant money to build a handicap-accessible outdoor classroom adjacent to the greenhouses.

In 2013, the third recipient was Ponderosa Elementary School for their xeric vegetable garden. The fifth grade developed a plan to raise native Colorado vegetables and flowering plants that require less water than other plants to study water conservation and sustainable food sources. Students and teachers spend countless hours clearing the land, building raised beds and caring for the young plants. Students and their families cared for the plants over the summer when the school was vacant. If the team attains additional funds, they will expand the garden to include a xeriscape display garden for community use.

