

Example Energy Campaigns

Lights Off #1

Objective

To reduce the number of lights left on.

Brainstorming

- What could be done to make it easier to remember that it is important to turn lights off when leaving a room?
- How can we monitor rooms with lights left on?
- What will be the reward for classrooms that effectively turn lights off?

Actions

Placed a light bug reminder on every door.

Two environmental kids checked rooms daily with a check list (room number, which lights were left on). Rooms other than classrooms (e.g. principal's office, library, music room, art room, bathrooms, science room) were also monitored. If lights were not on, they left a note saying "Good job!"

Each week the classrooms making a positive effort were given a small light bulb to put over their door. When a classroom had five small light bulbs, they were exchanged for a large light bulb.

Results

The campaign was a real success. It made everyone aware that we must reduce the amount of electricity used. Also, everyone became more conscious of turning off lights when leaving a room.

Recommendations

Each year the campaign should be rerun for a week or a month to remind everyone to reduce the amount of electricity required for lighting.

Lights Off #2

Objective

To reduce the amount of electricity required for lighting.

Brainstorming

- How can we organize activities?
- What type of activity do we want to do?
- What types of reminders would be the most effective?
- How can we educate the other students about our lights off campaign?

Actions

Students used the trophy case to display information about their lights off campaign. Students used burnt out light bulbs in their display and other items to make the display creative.

Posters were also made and hung by each light switch, to remind everyone about turning lights off.

Results

n/a

Recommendations

n/a

Turn it off – Computer Equipment

Objective

To decrease the number of computers left on.

Brainstorming

- How do we organize an activity?
- Who will monitor the activity?
- What reward will be given for students' hard work?

Action

Each week, one class was assigned the responsibility of turning the computers off. If this was accomplished, they got extra gym time during Language Arts class.

Results

Making one class responsible for turning computers off is a great way to get the job done. A small reward is an added bonus! This school reduced the number of computers and monitors left on.

Recommendations

n/a

Tree-planting

Objective

To grow our own trees and learn how to plant them.

How to educate students about conifer growth.

Brainstorming

- Will students germinate their own trees?
- What kind of seed would be the best?
- What will we do with the trees?
- Is there anyone who could give the school advice?
- What types of trees provide shade?
- What types of trees will grow best in the area?
- Where is the best place to plant the trees, north or south side of the building?

Action

Every couple of years a science class (grade 4) germinates and grows tree seeds (often white pine). Students either take their seedlings home or plant them in our school garden.

When they grow bigger we will transplant the school trees to other places in the school yard. Seeds, seedlings and advice are available from many different groups or agencies.

Results

Students learned about the germination of seeds and conifer growth. More trees were added to the school yard. Students take their seedlings home.

Recommendations

n/a

Example Water Campaigns

TBA

TBA

Example Waste Campaigns

Garbage-free Lunch

Objective

To reduce lunchtime garbage.

Brainstorming

- What type of activity is easy to organize and effective?
- How can we promote the lunch time activity?
- What kinds of reminders would help us continue to reduce lunch time waste?

Action

During the regular assembly, information was provided on how lunch time waste could be reduced. Announcements about garbage-free lunches were made and students were given a demonstration of a garbage-free lunch. Posters were also made to advertise garbage-free lunches.

We picked days at random to monitor for garbage-free lunches. On those days, we announced that all students with a garbage-free lunch can come to the office for a reward. The lunch had to meet three criteria: no processed, packaged snack foods (like fruit roll-ups); reusable containers (like tupperware or yogurt containers); reusable lunch bags (cloth or reused paper). The rewards were small trinkets such as fridge magnets and erasers.

Results

The number of students that came down to the office for their reward increased.

Recommendations

Schools should choose a simple waste campaign to start with, then move to more complex ones.

Composting

Objective

To reduce garbage in the classroom and in students' homes.

Brainstorming

- Is it possible to set up a vermicomposting project?
- Where would we set up the vermicomposting bin?
- What do we do with the vermicomposting over the summer months?

Actions

We found information about vermicomposting in Green Teacher magazine (books like Worms Eat my Garbage are also good). We designed the worm composting bins using tupperware bins lined with paper towels and filled with potting soil. We got the red wiggler worms from a local supplier.

Since composting fits with the Grade 4 unit "Waste in our World," worm composting bins were set up in each Grade 4 classroom. Students were shown the right kind of lunch waste to put in the composter. The bins were set up in the fall and dismantled in June. In June, the worms were distributed to any Grade 4 student who wished to start his or her own worm composting bin at home.

Results

Students learned what types of items to put in the compost. Consequently, students used the compost bins to deposit compostables.

Recommendations

Don't overfeed the worms or they will die! Cover fresh material and castings with soil to eliminate flies and odour. Red wigglers make the best compost worms.

Don't trash it – recycle it

Objective

To help classrooms recycle paper.

Brainstorming

- What steps can we take to achieve our goal?
- How can we educate people about recycling paper?
- What do we do with collected paper?

Image

Action

Each room in the school was given a green box for all scrap paper. (They were donated by a waste management company but they can also be purchased for about \$5.) This paper is collected by the waste management company for recycling.

The paper is not sorted by type but is checked to make sure there is no garbage in the bins. The school does not receive any payment for the recycled paper but does reduce the amount of garbage picked up each week.

Results

The amount of paper that is recycled significantly reduced the garbage going to the landfill.

Recommendations

n/a