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Tip of the Month

Did you know we can save up to \$850,000 in schools per year by turning off lights, powering down computers, and unplugging appliances? Let's all pitch in: turn off lights, power down computers, and unplug appliances when not in use. Last out, lights out! Unplug energy lugs!

Greetings!

The OUSD emPower team is pleased to announce the kickoff to the Energy Challenge 2014-15 in its first newsletter for this school year! Danny Maloney and Gina Zheng, this year's emPower team, are excited to motivate students and staff to reduce energy. They are led by Alice Sung, OUSD's High Performance Schools Program Manager, who introduced emPower as an Energy Initiative in 2012-13.

emPower is an OUSD Facilities Department energy conservation initiative that combines behavior change and facilities operational actions in efficiency. It aims to reduce energy by 10% district-wide, and we hope to include water conservation in the future. The Energy Challenge is emPow-

er's core behavior-based energy conservation program. The Energy Challenge consists of a friendly "peer competition" where schools strive to save the most electricity against their own baseline usage.

Students are already implementing their strategies to encourage their respective schools to conserve energy. The Energy Challenge is off to a great start!

In this issue you will find a few things the emPower team has been working on lately. Also in this issue is a brief introduction to this year's new Site Champions, who serve as liaisons to the OUSD emPower team and coordinate student emPower groups at each site!

OUSD emPower Energy Challenge Updates

Castlemont High School, Oakland High School, and Oakland Technical High School are the current participants in the emPower Energy Challenge. Energy reduction efforts are spearheaded by a group of students at each school. All three emPower student groups are in the middle of planning and implementing their energy reduction strategies. The OUSD emPower team helps support the student teams through discussion and planning. emPower's non-profit partners in these efforts include Strategic Energy Innovations/Energize Schools and Alliance for Climate Education. A couple of popular outreach ideas have been creating an emPower bulletin board and creating posters to hang around the schools to build energy awareness.

The Energy Challenge standings as of December 1st are Castlemont High in first, reducing 11% electricity; Oakland Tech in second with 7% electricity reduction; and Oakland High in third place with a 2% electricity increase. It is only the end of the first quarter of the Challenge, so keep on saving!

Stay tuned for next month's newsletter for more details!

INTRODUCING OUR SITE CHAMPIONS!

Castlemont High

Tim Bremner is from Seattle and has been living in Oakland for 15 years. He got into sustainability and environmental design because both concern community health. One of Mr. Bremner's goals for the Energy Challenge is for students to get involved and trained in authentic community-based sustainability projects. Mr. Bremner has two chickens, two cats and a dog and loves to garden.

Mitch Singsheim studied Environmental Science in college because it was the area of science that he saw the greatest connection to his life. Majoring in Environmental Science allowed him to focus his studies on finding ways to improve and protect our natural resources. Mr. Singsheim hopes that Castlemont can be an energy conservation leader in OUSD. He expresses, "The emPower program has given students a platform to build a culture of conservation mindedness within the school." In his free time, he really enjoys cooking and cooking related T.V. shows. His favorite is *Top Chef*.

"The emPower program has given students a platform to build a culture of conservation mindedness..."

—Mitch Singsheim



OHS Site Champion Katie Noonan

Oakland High

Katie Noonan grew up in California when the population was 10 million instead of the 39 million it is today. Her parents took her on several camping trips, fueling her interest in how nature works. Besides winning, Ms. Noonan states, "I want the entire school to understand that Climate Justice is a cause that can unite Oakland High and has real impacts on health, jobs, and quality of life in the community." Ms. Noonan went to opening day of Disneyland in 1955!

Kevin Jordan grew up in what use to be a small rural town, Portola Valley, and attended Woodside High School, Humboldt State for his B.S. in Biology, and Cal State East Bay for most of his graduate work. Mr. Jordan hopes the Energy Challenge will get students and staff to think about the accumulation of daily activities and their impacts on the planet. Mr. Jordan is a trip leader for the Sierra Club, which allows him to take Oakland High ESA scholars on river trips.



OHS Site Champion Kevin Jordan

Oakland Tech

Joe Senn was born in South Korea but grew up in Wisconsin. He majored in Biology and History in college and has always been fascinated with nature. His fascination with nature is a result of him living in the countryside, engaging in outdoor activities with family and Boy Scouts, and participating in a limnology club in college. He envisions the Energy Challenge to help staff and students become more aware of their own energy use. Mr. Senn's favorite Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle is Michelangelo.

"...Climate Justice is a cause that can unite Oakland High and has real impacts on health, jobs, and quality of life..."

—Katie Noonan

Deirdre Snyder grew up in New England where there was an abundance of nature. A couple of her goals for Oakland Tech include reducing energy consumption at the school and increasing awareness of consumption and climate change. So far, she has witnessed students gaining interest in recycling and art classes creating recycling posters at Oakland Tech. Ms. Snyder has taken great initiative to increase awareness of the consequences of using fossil fuels and thinking about alternatives, incorporating these ideas into her Spanish classes.