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Upcoming Features:

- More student work
- Winter & Spring Break Shutdown results
- Q & A

Tip of the Month

Adjust the sleep setting on your computer to automatically go to sleep after 10 minutes of inactivity.

Also, don't forget to turn off the monitor!

Greetings!

As of late March, Danny and Gina, the former emPower fellows, have left and moved onto green jobs. We are very excited for them, but also eager to introduce the new fellows, David and Gwen. David graduated from Sonoma State University, with a degree in Environmental Studies and Planning. In his free time, David works on his edible garden, backpacks and goes on long bike rides. Gwen recently completed a graduate level program, Oregon Leadership in Sustainability, and she loves hiking, playing kickball and going to concerts. Welcome, David and Gwen!

Energy Challenge Updates

The emPower challenge is now adjusted to begin in October (rather than September). From *October 1st to April 1st* Oakland Tech has a 4.6% electricity reduction and Oakland High has reduced their electricity usage by 7%. We are still waiting on data confirmation for Castlemont. Stay tuned!



Castlemont emPower student interns showing off the emPower newsletter!

OUSD Goes Solar!

On February 27th, OUSD celebrated the installation of 3.6 megawatts of solar power across 17 campuses in the District. Oakland Unified's investment in solar energy will increase utility savings, lower the District's carbon footprint, improve the local economy and provide educational opportunities for students, staff and the community. The project has been four years in the making and would not have been possible without the leadership of OUSD's Department of Facilities, with the Board of Education, and the work and support of many Facilities staff, SGI construction managers, and SunPower .

The District's emPower program and SUDA, Sustainable Urban Design Academy, were both recognized as innovative programs that have helped pave the way for clean energy. Two students, Ronye Cooper and Sandra Vivian-Calderon, spoke about the SUDA program and how their involvement with the emPower Energy Challenge Program has helped reduce



Ronye and Sandra speaking at the Solar Dedication Ceremony

energy usage and has spread awareness throughout the school. These programs, paired with the newly installed solar panels, have the potential to significantly reduce Castlemont's electricity bill and dependence on the grid. The District will continue to see the benefits of the solar panels for decades to come and hopefully the solar project will continue to join emPower in stimulating more sustainability initiatives across the district.

What's happening on site?

Castlemont High

The students at Castlemont High had the great idea of organizing a "Lights Off" event for Earth Day, April 22nd. The purpose of the event was to encourage teachers to use natural lighting in their classrooms during 5th period. The students hope to expand the "Lights Off" event to a more regular, perhaps weekly, schedule. They put together announcements and emails to spread awareness to students and teachers. The students at Castlemont have also been working on analyzing energy data and updating emPower's social media. Nice work, team!



Oakland High

At Oakland High School, the emPower interns recently completed some hands-on projects. They observed what appliances the teachers left on the most. Then, they used watt meters to measure the appliance's energy use and created informative posters to post around campus and hand out to teachers. The emPower student interns also conducted a delamping workshop. They measured the observed light in their classroom with the lights on, off and half on. At the end of workshop, the students were able to calculate whether or not a room was over-lit and how much energy, money and CO2 emissions they would save by removing lights. Oakland High is readily reducing their energy use thanks to the action of emPower student interns!

Oakland Tech

At Oakland Tech on April 22nd, emPower and the Tech Green Club set up tables after school for an Earth Day celebration. Students walking by could vote on the name of the school wide green movement, learn about the many green projects going on at Tech, drink healthy kale smoothies and make recycled bottle art. At the emPower table students created energy tickets, which help reinforce energy conservation behaviors for both teachers and students. At the end of a school day it is great to see so many students participating in the Earth Day celebration! #GOTech!



Student Feature: Sofia de Melo

Sofia de Melo, a student at Oakland Tech, was intrigued by the recently installed solar panels. She investigated further and wrote an informative article for The Scribe (the Oakland Tech newspaper). Below is an excerpt from her article:

"The solar panels at Tech and at all the other 16 sites at OUSD are 'SunPower 20' solar panels. This particular series provides panel conversion efficiencies of up to 20% compared to other types of solar panels that provide conversion efficiencies of as low as 10%. These panels are amidst the most efficient equipment on the US market today. Tech's solar system is providing a modest amount of the energy usage required by Tech so most of the electricity is being purchased through PG&E. Each panel generates about 327 watts of power which is enough watts to power a vacuum cleaner or a blender. The PV system size is 470.55 kWp total which is a lot of vacuum cleaners and blenders.....While we students can't control that currently we need to purchase two thirds of our energy from PG&E we can control how much energy we use and work on limiting it as much as possible."



On-Site Solar Panels