

About the Energy Smart Students Program

The Energy Smart Students program is a statewide energy education program providing FREE workshops to educators who work with students in grades K-12. This program provides professional development for educators who wish to learn about energy and its impact on the environment, the economy, and society.

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ENERGY SMARTS

NEWSLETTER

NYSERDA Sponsors Shining Example Contest

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is in search of shining examples when it comes to saving energy and protecting the environment. By entering the NYSERDA-sponsored Shining Example online video and essay contest, New Yorkers could win a free ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) home makeover, a free Comprehensive Home Assessment, a chance to be featured in NYSERDA's next television commercial, and other prizes.

Through May 1, New York residents of all ages can enter the contest by visiting <http://www.ShiningExampleNY.com> and submitting a 90-second video or 250-word essay demonstrating why they've switched to ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs and what the switch means to them. New York State residents are eligible to participate in the contest provided that they pay into the System Benefits Charge (SBC) and are customers of utilities in SBC territory. Customers of the New York Power Authority, Long Island Power Authority, rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities are not eligible.



The Shining Example contest is just one way NYSERDA is rallying New Yorkers to participate in an ambitious program to save more than one million megawatt hours of electricity by installing 16.9 million CFLs statewide—enough electricity to power more than 165,000 homes for a year. It's all part of Governor Paterson's '45 by 15' plan to help the State receive 45 percent of its electricity through energy efficiency and clean renewable energy by 2015. ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs use 75 percent less energy and last about 10 times longer than standard light bulbs, saving about \$30 over the lifetime of the bulb.

"New York has been a national leader in the efforts to reduce energy consumption, and we want to shine the light on individual New Yorkers who are helping us in our efforts to build a brighter future," said

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March 2010

Ways to Involve Students in Energy Education

Spring Into Upcoming Energy Workshops

The following workshops are funded through NYSERDA's School Power...NaturallySM program.

The State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) in Syracuse is sponsoring an Advanced Training Workshop in Alternative Energy on August 2 through 5. The workshop is designed to promote the understanding and use of alternative energy technologies as they pertain to both the classroom and the outside world. The goal is to provide a background in solar photovoltaics, wind, and other alternative energies for use in the classroom. Enrollment is open to high school science teachers, pre-service teachers, and community educators.

Attendees will take part in an intense four-day workshop with a series of follow-up experiences throughout the school year. Upon completion of the workshop, participants will earn two graduate-level course credits from SUNY ESF.

Educators accepted for participation will be awarded tuition and fees for the course, as well as a stipend and travel costs. Some meals are provided. Lodging shall be provided on an as-needed basis for participants traveling in excess of 50 miles per day. Attendance is limited, and applications will be accepted beginning in early March.

Application information and forms are available

at www.esf.edu/outreach/k12/solar/. For more information, please contact Dr. Neal Abrams at nmabrams@esf.edu or Dr. Richard Beal at rebeal@esf.edu.

The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA), in collaboration with the New York State Outdoor Education Association (NYSOEA), is sponsoring Wind Wisdom for School Power Naturally, a free professional development workshop for K-6 educators on Saturday, April 17 at the Greenbelt Nature Center on Staten Island from 1 to 4 pm.

Wind Wisdom for School Power Naturally offers a hands-on introduction to the technology and engineering involved in renewable wind energy and provides a context for teaching scientific and engineering principles related to properties of the wind, energy transformation, and electricity.

This workshop will include hands-on science and engineering activities that support the New York State Learning Standards and Core Curriculum, and address specific performance indicators.

Registration is required. Visit the NESEA Web site at <http://www.nesea.org/k-12/events/> and click on "4/17 Wind Wisdom workshop." The completed form can be emailed to agrindrod@nesea.org or faxed to (413) 774-6053. For questions, please contact Arianna Grindrod at (413) 774-6051 x 21.

FREE Resources for Educators

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence.

This Web site features more than 1,500 federally supported teaching and learning resources from dozens of federal agencies with new sites regularly added and updated.

Visit <http://free.ed.gov> to browse the teaching resources and lesson plans on a variety of subjects, including history, arts and music, and science. Under each subject, detailed subheadings link to specific Web sites. For example, under 'science,' are links to hundreds of Web sites covering topics such as earth sciences, life sciences, physical science, and space sciences.

EPA Climate Change. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Change Web site offers comprehensive information on the issue of climate

change in a way that is accessible and meaningful to all parts of society – communities, individuals, business, schools, and governments.

Visit <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange> to access a number of informational resources, including the economic consequences of climate change, actions individuals can take to reduce the presence of greenhouse gases, and an up-to-date list of news releases dealing with the subject.

Visible Earth. This Web site, found at <http://visibleearth.nasa.gov>, provides an extensive catalog of NASA images and animations of earth. Among the images available for viewing are those taken by specific satellites, images taken of countries, and even images taken of several states.

Governor Paterson Outlines Energy Initiative

Governor David A. Paterson recently outlined his initiative to develop an extensive plan that will dramatically reduce greenhouse gas pollution while also building New York's clean energy economy. The multi-faceted effort is driven by Executive Order No. 24, which sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in New York State by 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050.

NYSERDA President and CEO Francis J. Murray, Jr. said: "Governor Paterson has challenged the State to take the lead in developing a plan that responds to the clear environmental and economic threats caused by our dependence on fossil fuels with concrete actions to reduce our energy use while building our economy. We are firmly committed to working with every sector of the economy to ensure that the plan sent to the Governor recognizes the challenges each sector of our State will face in drastically reducing energy use and enhancing our ability to compete in the global economy."

Low-Cost CFLs for Educational Organizations

As part of NYSERDA's program to introduce over 16 million compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) into homes statewide, educators may be able to purchase below-cost CFLs for fundraisers and other school-related projects. A number of local retailers and manufacturers can access special funding meant to increase the sales and distribution of ENERGY STAR CFLs.

For more information, or to locate a source for low-cost CFLs, contact Mark Michalski at mm2@nyserda.org.

Ashley Waring, Green Depot Branch Manager



ENERGY CAREERS

Ashley Waring is the branch manager and a designer for the Albany location of Green Depot, a supplier of environmentally-friendly and sustainable building products, services, and home solutions, with nine locations in the northeast and mid-west. Ms. Waring works with vendors of different green products, including many local companies, to research and learn about their products. She attends retail sales shows, gives presentations, and handles design projects and retail sales in the Albany office.

Q. How did you get interested in this field?

A. I completed a five-year undergraduate program in industrial and interaction design at Syracuse University. People always ask me to define industrial design. An architect designs a building; industrial designers design everything else: a putty knife, the packaging for a can of paint, a kitchen chair. For my fifth year thesis, I researched responsibility and reaction to climate change issues on the part of individuals, corporations, and government—and how these groups interact with one another.

Q. What skills are important in your job?

A. Educating customers about green products is a huge part of my job. I also work with corporations looking to incorporate green products into new buildings and renovation projects. Customers ask very specific questions so a lot of learning is necessary. I'm trying to learn as much as possible and am currently debating going back to school for sustainable design or sustainable architecture.

Q. What sustainability concepts do you integrate into your work?

A. Being in this job has given me the opportunity to learn how people can become more green, such as using responsibly-harvested lumber and green cleaning products. There are a lot of little things you can do on a low budget. I love the book, *The Live Earth Global Warming Survival Handbook: 77 Essential Skills to Stop Climate Change* by David de Rothschild. It has little 'factoids' on being green.

Q. What training or education would you recommend for a student interested in this field?

A. Becoming a good communicator is important for interacting with people on a daily basis—in any field. I grew up participating in Girl Scouts and 4-H and focused on leadership and communication, which was my minor in college. I also worked for the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), where I met and interacted with people from all walks of life.

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NYSERDA Sponsors Shining Example Contest

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NYSERDA President and CEO Francis J. Murray, Jr. “The simple act of switching incandescent bulbs to ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs could save New Yorkers millions of dollars in energy costs, while improving our environment. This contest seeks to recognize New Yorkers who are already taking action and can inspire others to follow their lead.”

The 10 video winners will be eligible to have portions of their video appear in the Shining Example television ad debuting this fall, receive a free Comprehensive Home Assessment through Home Performance with Energy Star, and receive a free CFL bulb makeover for themselves and 10 neighbors. The 10 essay winners will be eligible to receive a free Comprehensive Home Assessment and free CFL bulb makeover for themselves.

For rules and to enter, visit <http://www.ShiningExampleNY.com>.

An Interview with Ashley Waring

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Q. How do you think this field will change in the years ahead?

A. Ten years ago, “green” was a color; now it’s a movement. Although many green products are now competitively priced, I think prices will come down even further. When these products are more common, living a green lifestyle will be cheap and easy AND the right thing to do.

Q: What advice would you have for students interested in green careers?

A. There is a wealth of information available on green careers, and there are many different options. Find out what your interests are by volunteering and trying new things.

Summer Institute to “Energize” Education

From July 6 through July 15, SUNY Oswego plans to offer a two-week summer institute, “Energizing Education for a Better Future.” The institute is designed for secondary teachers of math, science, and technology and will address local and global energy topics.

A team of instructors will cover topics such as the nature of energy, energy conservation, alternative sources of energy, and energy’s connection to politics and social culture. A number of topics relevant to New York State will also be discussed. As a culmination of the institute, participants will construct an energy curriculum portfolio of lesson plans, handouts, and learning activities that can be immediately used in the classroom.

Participants can opt to enroll in the not-for-credit option or pay tuition for three graduate or undergraduate credits. To register, or for more information, visit the Energy Institute’s Web site at http://www.oswego.edu/academics/continuing/summerwintersessions/energy_institute.html or call the Office of Business and Community Relations at (315) 312-3492.

Want to Host a Workshop?

Interested in bringing the Energy Smart Students program to educators in your area? Let us know. We will provide the Energy Educator, the curriculum material, and assistance with finding a venue. All you need to do is provide 20 educators. Contact us at info@nyess.org or call 1-877-NY-SMART (Option 6) for more information.



NYSERDA

New York State
Energy Research and
Development Authority

What Is NYSERDA?

NYSERDA, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, offers programs, technical support, and funding to help businesses, municipalities, research institutions and consumers become more energy efficient, protect the environment, and save money. By supporting the development and commercialization of new technologies, NYSERDA programs move New York toward a clean-energy economy, deliver economic benefits, and help create jobs through workforce development to prepare New York workers for green-collar jobs. NYSERDA program staff brings significant expertise and evaluates energy-related projects to ensure the best outcome. NYSERDA invests in programs that support the State’s energy goals – reducing energy consumption while promoting the use of renewable resources and protecting the environment. NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, has been helping New York save energy since 1975.