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## **6,000 Area Students Compete to Save Energy in their Schools** ***ReNew Our Schools starts in St. Vrain Valley School District***

An energy saving competition with the potential to reach over 6,000 students and over 2,000 households begins in St. Vrain Valley School District on Monday, January 27. The competition, called ReNew Our Schools, is a program of the Center for ReSource Conservation, a CO nonprofit organization. ReNew our Schools, launched in 2007 with support from a local family foundation, is part of the greater mission of the Center for ReSource Conservation - to educate the local community about conserving natural resources and sustainability.

Due to huge success in April 2013, St. Vrain Valley School District is hosting the ReNew Our Schools competition again, with twelve schools competing. In the student-led competition, schools have one month to save energy by changing behaviors - turning off lights, unplugging unused appliances, and turning off computers when not in use. Teachers are incorporating energy conservation coursework into curriculum and students are encouraged to develop plans their school can adopt to decrease energy usage in the long term.

Students can also earn points by encouraging area home owners to get involved by pledging to save energy. Each school's results will be available in real-time on a competition website, which really spurs on the competition. "The competition gives the students a reason to learn about energy and empowers them to tackle a real-world problem –energy conservation," says Kathy Croasdale, Program Coordinator for the Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC).

The three schools that perform the best over the month-long competition will each win a \$20,000 prize to make energy changes to their building, such as adding solar tubes or switching to LED lighting. To be a top performer, the schools must reduce energy in school and reach out to the community to get households to commit to saving energy. The students must become leaders in their school and community to win one of the grand prizes, which will be announced in the end of February. "The contest inspired my peers and me to make a difference. It really taught us that even though we may be a small group of people, we can make a huge difference environmentally," noted a student from a winning 2012.

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**[www.ConservationCenter.org](http://www.ConservationCenter.org) ♦ [www.ReSourceYard.org](http://www.ReSourceYard.org) ♦**

What can you do to help? Pledge to save energy and earn points for your local school. The online form can be found here: <http://conservationcenter.org/rnos/home-checklist/>  
To read more about the competition, visit: <http://conservationcenter.org/rnos/>.

The participating schools in ReNew Our Schools are:

Burlington Elementary	Lyons Middle/Senior
Centennial Elementary	Prairie Ridge Elementary
Central Elementary	Red Hawk Elementary
Eagle Crest Elementary	Thunder Valley K8
Fall River Elementary	Timberline K8
Lyons Elementary	Westview Middle

*About CRC: The Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC) is an environmental nonprofit working across the Front Range to provide active solutions for residents to conserve our natural resources. CRC serves the public through innovative sustainability programs and ReSource operations. For more about the CRC, visit <http://conservationcenter.org/>*





