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11 New Environmental Clubs Form in Aurora Public Schools After Energy Competition

May 7, 2014, (Boulder, CO) - During the month of April, 12 Aurora Public Schools competed for three \$20,000 awards towards energy retrofits, and in the process, a new generation of energy stewards were inspired to take action in their communities.

The Aurora Public School District participated in the month-long ReNew Our Schools contest, a program of the [Center for ReSource Conservation](http://www.ConservationCenter.org), of Boulder, CO.

The program installs energy consumption monitors, provided and monitored by partnerse-Gauge and Magnelabs, in up to 12 schools in a district. The devices provide real-time data to students who lead efforts to conserve energy in their school in a points-based contest. Student-led teams work with a teacher-sponsor and a program mentor from the energy industry to conduct classroom and school-wide energy audits and devise energy-saving plans to implement during the contest. Points are awarded based on the change in energy use from a baseline measurement. Students earn additional points by making posters and videos describing their school's pledges to reduce energy by turning off lights, unplugging computers and other equipment, and other energy saving practices. Armed with this information, the students take the pledges to their homes, earning points for families who sign up to reduce their energy consumption in the home as well.

"The results were the most significant of all the ReNew Our Schools contests to date," said Program Coordinator Kathy Croasdale, "In one month, three schools reduced their energy use by over 20%." "The kids really got into it," said Crawford Elementary School Principal Jennifer Passchier.

To date, ReNew Our Schools has run four competitions in Boulder Valley and St. Vrain School Districts, in addition to Aurora Public Schools. In each contest, an average 10% reduction in overall energy consumption was achieved, and students

had a say in how their prize money will be spent on energy retrofits – providing solar panels and tubes, wind turbines, LED lighting and more.

Partners and Mentors for this program include:

eGauge
Magnetlab
CU Denver
Xcel Energy
SlaterPaul Architects
NREL
Johnson Controls
Amplidyne
Green Schools Alliance
Waste Management
Transpower Company
U.S. General Services Administration

The press is invited to attend a reception recognizing the hard work of the students, teachers, and mentors involved in the competition on Wednesday, May 14th, from 5-6 pm at the Educational Services Center #4 Building (ESC-4), Conference Room C.



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About the CRC: The Center for ReSource Conservation's mission is to put conservation into action. Our vision is thriving communities living sustainably and we implement this through our Sustainability Programs and our ReSource Yard. For more information on how we bring practical environmental solutions to homes, businesses and schools, visit our website at www.conservationcenter.org