



MINNESOTA SCHOOLS CUTTING CARBON

100 Schools, 3 years...How much energy can we save?

✂ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS ✂

How much time will I be investing?

How much time will be invested will be entirely up to you.

- Some teachers are playing the role of an advisor to an after school student group. You are there to help answer questions, give the group credibility, and keep the project moving, but the students are the ones taking charge.
- Other teachers are incorporating it into their regular class curriculum, as a hands on activity to compliment and reinforce what you are already teaching in the classroom.
- Finally some teachers are taking an active involvement, making phone calls, helping with planning, writing grant applications, etc.

Will teachers need to be involved with the “B3” database?

No. Teachers will not be required to invest time on this. It is purely optional. The B3 database is funded by the state and is intended to “benchmark” buildings to identify their potential for saving energy. If your school is in this database already, the information will help us evaluate your school building’s energy use. If not, we will encourage your school operations staff to participate. Again, teachers do not need to participate in the B3 work.

What can the initial \$500 grant money be spent on?

The \$500 grant can be spent on almost anything, and should become available to all 100 participating schools no later than March, 2009. The only items specifically prohibited are food and drink. Copies, field trips, room rentals, student stipends, or stipends for teachers who are putting in a lot of time are all acceptable uses of the funds. (Note: funds will come from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; we are in contact with their staff to further clarify the availability and usage of these grants).

What about the \$20,000 grants?

In the Fall 2009, participating schools will be asked to apply for ten \$20,000 grants. This money is to be used to further implement the schools carbon reducing project(s). The criteria for judging these grant applications is currently being refined, but generally schools with the most innovative ideas to reduce the greatest amount of carbon will be rewarded.

How will I know which project(s) make the greatest impact for reducing our carbon footprint?

We will have a lot of materials and carbon calculators available on the website that address this issue, but we are also in the process of creating a carbon calculator specific to the MN Schools Cutting Carbon project. We expect this calculator to be available May, 2009.

How can I get more information about global warming and carbon reduction actions?

On our website we have large amounts of resources for students and teachers. Our current website is a “place saver” for the much larger and in-depth site coming on-line by December 15th, 2008.

- If you would like to incorporate curriculum into the classroom we will have lesson plans and classroom activities from various sources.
- If your students have access to computers we can provide online games about energy and the environment we have a link.
- We will have videos and webinars that cover clean energy topics in an educational and (hopefully) entertaining way.

The Web site www.SchoolsCuttingCarbon.org will also have a forum so you can talk with other teachers and students to see what approaches they are using to reduce their carbon footprint. Participating schools can sort themselves by region of the state or by the tactic they are using to reduce carbon (energy efficiency, solar etc.).

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