Advancing Science Education

PUD Awards Mini-Grants for Energy Projects at Schools

Everett, Wash. — Budding young scientists and engineers will get a boost this year with help from Snohomish County PUD. Local students will soon be assembling Snap Circuits and racing solar cars. They’ll learn about energy transformations and water turbines. The PUD recently awarded 13 mini-grants for science-related educational projects in several local school districts. The grants help schools incorporate energy and water education into their curriculum. The following teachers and schools received support for the 2015-2016 school year:

EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brier Elementary, Shannon Gonsalves, 4th-6th grade
After working with a Motion and Design science kit, students will build solar cars to learn about the alternative energy source and enhance their understanding of STEM concepts.

Edmonds Elementary, Christy Diefendorf & Karyn Heinekin, 4th grade
Using Snap Circuits kits, students will gain valuable hands on experience by creating and studying electrical circuits. In conjunction with the Snap Circuits, students will also learn about renewable and nonrenewable energy sources in order to make better choices as consumers of energy.

Martha Lake Elementary, Anna Walter, 4th grade
In alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards, students will build models of wind generators to create energy. Students will also extend their learning of technology by designing experiments with circuitry using Makey Makey boards.

Meadowdale Middle School, Diana Browne, 7th-8th grade
Consistent with state standards, students will use tools and models to see and experience energy transfers and transformations in a variety of systems. A water turbine model will teach students how most of our electricity is generated in the Northwest – through hydropower – making it relevant for students.

EVERETT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Penny Creek Elementary, Deb Strong, 4th-5th grade
While learning about the forms of energy and how they can be transferred and transformed, students will create Rube Goldberg machines through the engineering design process. Students will also write letters with a call to action on an energy topic they find interesting and relevant.

View Ridge Elementary, Richelle Shively, K-5th grades
Using solar energy materials, students in an after school STEM club will use the scientific process to conduct controlled experiments that emphasize energy sources, electricity generation and energy conservation.

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LAKE STEVENS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Highland Elementary, Patrick Walker, 5th grade
Students will learn how electricity is generated from solar energy, how it’s collected and then used to power and charge everyday devices. They will utilize a solar panel system on the roof of their classroom.

Hillcrest Elementary, Darlene Moe, Pre-K- 5th grades
After doing experiments with different forms of energy, students will learn how energy is wasted. A group of student “Energy Heroes” will come up with ways to teach each classroom at their school how they can conserve energy.

MARYSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pinewood Elementary, Suzette Nielsen, 5th grade
Students will use Snap Circuit kits to learn about energy systems, giving students a chance to evaluate subsystems, transfers of energy, forms of energy and the inputs and outputs of each system.

MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Maltby Elementary, Michelle Riske, 3rd-5th grade
Students will develop a basic understanding of solar energy through reading materials and classroom activities that demonstrate how solar energy is transformed. The 5th graders will build solar cars as a hands-on extension of the lessons.

MUKILTEO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Discovery Elementary, Laurie James, 4th grade
Students will build objects that react to solar energy and will compare this energy source to other natural resources, including hydropower. This foundation will encourage students to become the next generation of clean energy leaders.

Explorer Middle School, Laurel Nyquist and Lori Warnock, 8th grade
After conducting several inquiry-based investigations to learn about electricity, circuits and how electricity can be measured, students will be challenged to design a Rube Goldberg machine to turn off a light.

Voyager Middle School, David Watt, 8th grade
Students will take a field trip to the PUD’s Woods Creek Hydroelectric Project to learn how electricity is generated at a local river, its environmental impact and the many considerations studied during the project’s planning and construction. The field trip also will allow students to see career opportunities in the energy and engineering fields.

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