

NR 734 Action Plan
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Action Plan Summary:

The purpose of this plan is to educate staff and students about the potential energy savings of using conservation practices. The teaching staff would receive information from district and Xcel Energy employees to explain our current energy use and possible conservation practices that could be adopted to lower our consumption. Students would be involved by being part of the brainstorming process and creating a list of things they could do within their own classrooms. Students in grades 3-5 would also take on the role of being energy patrols to visit rooms throughout the day and record whether lights were left on with no one present.

There is no outside cost associated with our plan. Copies of charts and energy awards/reminders can be made on site.

Introduction to the Audience:

Flynn Elementary was built in 2001 and equipped with many of the newest energy efficient components. Our building has automatic light sensors and computerized heating and cooling. Our school serves children in Early Childhood through grade 5. There are approximately 270 students.

Statement of Problem or Need:

Currently our classroom sensors control lighting when they detect no movement in the room for a designated period of time. We have noticed that staff have become over-reliant on this feature and no longer turn off the lights when their room is not in use. This plan will serve to remind staff and students to turn off lights when they exit the room, since people walking by in the hallway can often trigger those lights to go back on when no one is present.

Many of our teachers do not shut down their computers when they leave for the night since they assume that the district main switch will take care of this. Often computers not in use are running for two hours until the main district shut down occurs. Our plan would remind teachers to shut down computers before they leave at the end of the day and also to turn off their monitors. Most are not aware that these are left on over night.

Our plan would also encourage students and staff to identify wasteful energy use within their classrooms. Each classroom would create a plan to eliminate the wasteful use of appliances or electricity in their rooms.

Project Goals and Objectives:

Our action plan is designed to reduce the amount of electricity used in our building, especially through lighting. Our objective is to reduce our consumption.

Methods and Timelines:

We will hold a short staff meeting during the December in-service day to introduce our plan to the staff. At that time we will invite Todd Wansous and Mark Kramer (our head custodian) to discuss our current energy use and ways in which we can reduce our consumption. Teachers will also be given a form to help them brainstorm ideas with their students of things they can do in their classrooms to conserve energy at school.

In January students in grades 3-5 will be trained to be energy patrollers. At the January all-school meeting, students will be introduced to this plan. The classrooms with the best results will win a popcorn party.

Each month students in grades 3-5 will incorporate the Xcel energy data into graphs and charts. They will use these charts to see if our conservation practices are making a difference. This information will be shared with students in grades K-2.

Evaluation Criteria and Process:

Our student energy patrollers will use the team log sheet to keep track of classrooms that are practicing energy conservation measures. Patrollers will leave tickets and certificates when they visit each room.

Our criteria will be to reduce our energy consumption by ten percent over five months. This will result in approximately a two percent reduction each month.

Budget:

Our plan does not require additional budget considerations. The copies of awards and certificates can be made on site.

Transparencies and Materials:

School Energy Consumption Pie Graph
Energy Smarts Team Log Sheet
Xcel Energy bills for Flynn for 2003-2004
Reminder Tickets and Certificates
Weekly Award Certificates
Teacher Form for Recording Classroom Conservation Ideas