



VIII. Suggested School Curriculum Implementation

United States schools spend more than \$6 billion annually on energy—and a full 1/3 of that budget is spent inefficiently².

Integrating the See The Light Program

When applying **See The Light** in an educational setting, it is important to gain the interest of the building's most numerous inhabitants—its students.

Allowing students to contribute their insights and feedback helps make your school more energy efficient and more student-friendly. Students are surprisingly well attuned to instances of waste that faculty and staff can sometimes overlook.

Furthermore, implementing **See The Light** presents a wonderful opportunity for synergies coupling your building's energy management plan with an enhanced curriculum of environmental responsibility. When students see first-hand the process of energy and environmental vigilance, they are more likely to connect their environmental curriculum to real -success.

² US ENERGY STAR



Consider appointing a staff member as an intermediary between the student and faculty population to encourage a free exchange of ideas and input.

School-Wide Implementation

There are many ways that you can excite your students about the implementation of the **See The Light** initiative at their school. As a first step, consider creating a student/faculty Shared Action Committee (SAC), whose job it is to propose, screen, and enact school ideas and projects relating to **See The Light** in particular, and energy awareness in general.

Subsequently, it is important to thoroughly introduce **See The Light** to students via some combination of assemblies, announcements, handouts, and even through social media. Make it clear that their input is welcome in this important venture, and that they need to be an active part of the school's participation to successfully cut energy waste and improve the environment through lower greenhouse gas emissions.

You'll likely find that students and teachers have pertinent ideas about how to involve the school in the **See The Light** program. Following are some ideas to get you started.

Student Involvements Opportunities

Lead students in energy audits of their classrooms ([sample classroom energy checklist included at the end of this section](#)) and designated areas of the school building. Turn the walkthroughs into a challenge, and see who can spot the most examples of energy waste.

Allow each class to brainstorm a plan for classroom behavioral changes. Post ideas in a common area at school, so students in different classes can compare their energy-saving suggestions.

Consider forming a student club (separate from the Shared Advisory Council) dedicated to environmental interests, especially as it concerns the school and the community at large.

Initiate a social media site on Facebook or Twitter to allow students at all schools to share their ideas and successes with schools locally and across the country.

Create a See The Light contest. Some ideas include:

- A school science fair with the theme of Energy Conservation.
- An essay contest about what conservation means to students, how they practice it in their daily lives, or how the efforts at their school connect to current world affairs.
- An energy-themed spelling bee. For younger grades, this is a good way to raise energy awareness and develop a foundation for a more complex appreciation later on.
- A poster design contest for one of the See The Light Tips.

Invite local colleges, businesses, utility representatives, and non-profit organizations to give presentations at your school or give tours of their campuses and explain their environmental initiatives.

Assign students to interview local energy professionals and publish the article in the school or local paper.

Print energy awareness materials for students to take home, and consider involving the PTA/PTO or a similar organization to expand the program community-wide.

If your school has a community service requirement, direct students toward environmental service. Contact local advocacy groups to see if they will sponsor student volunteer days.