



Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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Students And Teachers Honored For Energy Conservation Achievements

SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) today recognized elementary, junior and senior high school students and teachers and businesses from 12 communities for their energy conservation and education achievements. The students and teachers were honored during the Department's 16th annual Youth Awards Recognition Ceremony at the Renaissance Springfield Hotel.

Illinois schools competed for top honors by performing energy conservation measures and outreach activities. The competition is sponsored through the Illinois Energy Education Development program (ILEED).

"The awards recognize outstanding energy education achievement in our schools. The ILEED program gives students the opportunity to develop leadership and organizational skills while learning about energy efficiency," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin.

Students and teachers from Alhambra Elementary School in rural Madison County; Apple River Middle School in JoDaviess County; Chesnut, Thomas, Chadwick Elementary and Mt. Carroll Grade Schools in Carroll County; Kennedy Middle School in Kankakee; Husmann Elementary School in Crystal Lake; Stuart R. Paddock Elementary School in Palatine; Rhodes School District 84.5 in River Grove; and Keith Country Day School in Rockford were honored at today's awards ceremony.

Individual students recognized were Aaron Hirst and Kim Swan of Normal; Nick Wilson of Olympia Fields; Robert Griegoliet of Villa Park; and Samantha Forbes of Chatham.

ILEED also recognized BP America, Inc. and the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). This is the first year that ILEED has recognized private sector support for energy education in state schools.

BP was recognized for its Solar Connection program, which is designed to demonstrate solar power technology and teach children and teens the benefits of solar energy. This unique program offers selected area schools solar equipment and a complete renewable energy curriculum, at no cost.

ISAB was recognized for its efforts to encourage energy efficiency in school buildings and promoting programs that teach students about energy efficiency.

Students and teachers from four schools were selected to represent Illinois in June at the National Youth Awards in Washington. They are, Rick Johnson from Alhambra Elementary; Pam Phelps from Apple River School; Kathleen Cochrane from Stuart R. Paddock; and Betty Trummel from Husmann Elementary.

"My students cheered when they found out that our ILEED/NEED project was selected to represent Illinois at the National Youth Awards in Washington, D.C. in June. They feel a great sense of pride and accomplishment when it comes to our energy project," said Betty Trummel, a teacher at Husmann Elementary in Crystal Lake. "The fact that they not only learn about energy, but teach others and reach out to our Crystal Lake community with a service project, gives my students a sense of ownership. It is a great model for education, and we're proud to be a part of ILEED."

ILEED is a K-12 program designed to help students understand energy, and the complex issues that relate to its production and use. Through the program, DCEO's energy office provides free Illinois standards-led curriculum, workshops, educational training for teachers and students, summer camps and high school internships.

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