



# New Jersey Green Schools NEWSLETTER 3 – 11/06

## Featuring the Brick Township and Toms River Regional Green Schools Programs

What’s one of the most impressive indicators that a school district considers a program of value? In our minds, it’s when the district continues that program with the district’s own resources. And that’s exactly what both Brick Township Schools and Toms River Regional Schools are doing this year with Green Schools.

Global Learning initiated Green Schools in these two districts with outside funding from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities’ Office of Clean Energy. Even though this project funding has expired this fall, Brick and Toms River are continuing Green Schools activities for this school year.



Electris the Frog  
Silver Bay ES, TR

These decisions are encouraging, but not surprising, given the extremely positive results achieved last year by the enthusiastic and energetic Green Schools Teams operating in 31 schools

across the two districts. Six original Green Schools in Brick from the 2004-05 school year were joined by 8 more schools in February at our two day training and formal kick-off event. Most of the original Teams had begun their year’s activities on their own initiative prior to this rather late kick-off.

The Toms River Green Schools Program began with a one-day training in July and then the second day’s training in September. Thus Toms River benefited from a full year’s programming.

One of the Green Schools Program’s major assets is the flexibility afforded to each school team to adapt the educational and conservation resources to their

own needs and interests. We have witnessed great creativity in the ways Green Schools Teams decided to introduce the program to the rest of their school



MAX the Monkey  
Cedar Grove ES, TR

community, including both staff and students. Teams posted signs like, “Green Schools is coming…” and wore similar buttons announcing “Green Schools…ask me about it.” Then they made program presentations to faculty and staff meetings where curiosity had been pre-stirred.

One team provided training in the use of the energy monitoring tools of the Green Schools Tool Kit at breakfast meetings with fellow faculty members.

Most teams selected mascots to help “brand” their GSP activities. The animal kingdom was amply represented in permutations that suggested energy savings and environmental

responsibility, along with a few takes on transformed light bulb characters. As a number of these mascots traveled from classroom to classroom, they brought with them

2-3 energy lessons for those teachers to use with their students. Thus the educational resources were shared among the wider faculty.



Mr. Wiggly Watts  
Drum Point ES, B

Original songs, dances, games and skits were created and performed to communicate the values of energy awareness and conservation beyond the science curriculum. Hall displays in showcases and on bulletin boards also helped “spread the word,” to be joined by daily or weekly announcements via the PA system, including energy tips of the day. Another popular strategy saw older students – sometimes from the same school and sometimes from different schools – teaching energy lessons to younger students.



Shadow the Snake  
W Dover ES, TR

These student-based activities were buttressed by strong support from the custodians who were integral members of each Green Schools Team. Custodians helped evaluate suggestions such as turning off one of two banks of lights in hallways since single sets of lights provided adequate illumination for walking the



Bob the Flamingo  
Pine Beach ES, TR

halls. Custodians also checked settings on boilers and ventilation systems and determined which electric accounts contained both interior lights and playing fields.



Tiki the Parrot  
N Dover ES, TR

All these activities achieved appreciable results in terms of energy saved and greenhouse gases avoided. Seven of Brick’s 14 schools saved a combined average of 15.1% on their electric usage, while 16 of Toms River’s 17 schools saved a combined average of 6.9% on electricity. Gas usage had to be adjusted to take into account the fact that last year was either 11.7% or 14.2% warmer than the base years we had established for each school. Nine Brick schools produced a combined average of 9.9% savings in natural gas, and 6 Toms River schools combined for an average savings of 9.6%.

Actual Savings for 2005-2006				
	KWhs of electricity	Therms of natural gas	Dollars	CO <sub>2</sub>
<b>Brick Green Schools</b>	716,001	30,221	\$101,322	1,261,469 lbs.
<b>Toms River Green Schools</b>	1,654,727	8,545	\$221,708	2,198,170 lbs.

Green Schools Teams in each participating school consisted of several teachers, an administrator and a custodian. Each team created a plan for the school year, deciding how best to reach out to fellow staff and to their students. Activities included lessons taught within the traditional classroom as well as extracurricular activities and school wide events. The human energy that made the Green Schools Program so successful in both Brick Township

Schools and in Toms River Regional Schools transformed lack of awareness and indifference into cognitive excitement and concrete results. We salute the creativity, enthusiasm and perseverance of each Green Schools Team and say a super-sized thank you for your many noteworthy achievements. We look forward to another year of learning and sharing and saving together.

## ***Electris Hop!***

Tune: The Electric Slide

Written by Mindy D'Addario's 3rd grade students, Silver Bay ES, Toms River

She's Electris!  
She's our hero

(She's Electris!)  
You've gotta help her  
(She's Electris!)  
Ohh, save energy

You can turn the lights off  
(It's electric, so save it, save it, save it!)  
Just pull the blinds up  
(It's electric, don't waste it, waste it, waste it!)  
And you know it's there, yeah here, there, everywhere

She's got to move  
She's on a tour of Silver Bay  
She's hoppin' round from room to room  
And when she comes we just can't hide

Are you learning from her?  
Have you shut off all appliances?  
Don't let that water run, run  
Cause wasting water is not that wise

Some say she's awesome  
(She's Electris! Boogie, woogie, woogie)  
You can't refuse her  
(She's Electris! Boogie, woogie, woogie)  
When she comes to your room  
(It's Electris! Boogie, woogie, woogie)

Rabbit, Ribbit



Sparky Wattson  
Vets Memorial MS, B



A.C.E (Always Save Energy)  
TR Intermediate East

## ***Save Energy***

Tune: "Get on Your Feet"

Written by 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Washington St. Elementary School, Toms River

Help save our earth. Get up and make it happen.

See what it's worth. Stand up and take some action.  
We know some say – it's a waste of time there's no use trying.  
We're here to say without your help, our earth is dying.  
Be sure to do all the things you can to save our planet.

We know that you can change the world, if you just plan it.

Deep in your heart is the answer.

Find it; we know it will pull us through.  
Save energy. Turn off the lights and water.  
Don't be a fool, just walk to school or carpool.  
We know you care about our world so let's keep moving.  
Clean up our world, the one we love, let's start improving.  
You gotta keep looking on to tomorrow.  
There's so much in life that's meant for you.  
Save energy. Turn off the lights and water.  
Don't be a fool, just walk to school or carpool.  
Oh\_\_ way oh! Oh\_\_ way oh! (Repeat 4 times)  
Save energy. Turn off the lights and water.  
Don't be a fool, just walk to school or carpool.