

LAKESHORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ACTION PLAN

KEEP CLASS

NR 734: WISCONSIN COOL SCHOOLS SCHOOL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Submitted By

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Project Summary

Our goal is to educate, lead and be a model for the Lakeshore Community, students, families, and staff in promoting environmental conservation practices and cleaner living. We will meet our goal through a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Green and Healthy Schools Project.

Introduction to the Audience

Lakeshore Elementary School is a K-5 school with approximately 350 students in attendance from four neighborhoods. The school has a diverse population, which includes 65 to 70 percent poverty, ESL and Special Education students. Bordered by Half Moon Lake, Lakeshore sits on 7.9 acres of land in an urban, residential area. There is a city bicycle trail between the school and the Lake. Recycling of paper, cans and plastics occurs at the school.

Statement of Problem or Need

In order to promote environmental conservation practices and cleaner living, the Lakeshore Community, staff, students, and parents need to be educated to sound environmental practices.

Several resources are in place, a district energy plan has been formulated and a district energy supervisor has been appointed. Energy audits for the district have determined that energy usage is a large capital expense. Partnerships exist between KEEP, Focus on Energy and Excel. Mandates from the district in regard to lighting have occurred. The Lakeshore Community has established a Green and Healthy Schools Team and administrative support is in place.

Communication needs to occur between these various groups. The Lakeshore Community has been unaware that these district initiatives have been created. Our goal as a Green and Healthy Schools Team is to bridge that gap in knowledge and understanding between the district and the Lakeshore Community.

Project Goals and Objectives

We will use the DNR assessments to determine how “green” Lakeshore School is and then inform our staff, students and parents. The Green and Health School Team will analyze building energy usage, determine ways to increase awareness of energy-wise conservation practices amongst our staff, students and families, and implement programs

to improve energy conservation at the school level. This team will communicate the analysis outcomes to the school community. With guidance from the team, specific areas in need of improvement will be determined and a plan put in place to improve those areas. Successes of good environmental practices will be celebrated.

Methods and Timelines

In the fall of 2004 a Green and Healthy Schools Team was created and 6 members of the team attended KEEP class to identify resources to assist in the project. The DNR assessments were divided amongst the team. The team will complete the assessments with the aide of fifth grade CHAMPS groups and then through staff meetings, our school web site and our weekly, live TV program communicate with staff, students and families regarding the project.

During the spring of 2005 the team will study the results of the analysis and determine areas needing improvement. Resources will be identified to assist in improving areas of weakness. Goals will be set for improvement. Parties will be identified as to their responsibility and their roles in improvement. Identify the criteria to measure changes. Implement the plan for improvement and continue communication with the Lakeshore Community.

During the spring/summer of 2005, the Green and Healthy team will evaluate change in the identified goal area. Celebrate successes by being declared a "Green and Healthy School" by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Identify on going areas in need of change. And prepare future action plan for areas needing change.

Evaluation Criteria and Process

Success will be measured in a number of ways; survey of staff, students and families as to the effectiveness of this project, designation as a Green School, and long-term, increased compliance with effective energy conservation practices on a personal and school-wide level. Staff and students will be surveyed regarding a number of criteria related to energy conservation practices at the current time and again at the completion of the end of the initial phase of this project. An assessment of "Green and Healthy Schools" will be completed and analyzed. Information from that procedure will determine future goals and needs.

Budget

Release time for 9 teachers from Lakeshore on the Green and Healthy Schools team to complete and analyze DNR assessments would be a part of the budget. At a cost of \$100.00 per staff member for the day, this budget item will total \$900.00. Funding for

this release would need to be identified, as there is no money budgeted for this within the building.

The budget would also include funding for setting up an environmental learning station for students, staff and community members to cover topics identified by the audit. Included in this station would be resource materials for teachers to assist with their lesson planning such as the book Energy Conservation Lesson Plans and Activities by Dale Seymour Publications for \$19.95, videos and other items pertinent to our Green and Healthy Schools Program

The use of speakers to help educate our staff, students and parents would also be a part of our budget. Cost for this part of the budget is not yet known. Funding for this portion of the budget would require outside funding, as there is no money budgeted for this within the building.