

MARCH UPDATE



I-Save is a voluntary program developed by Wayne-Westland Community Schools as an internal energy conservation program that helps our district reduce our impact on the planet, educate our students about conservation, and redirect utility dollars back into the classroom. The program was launched in August of 2008 and has been offered to all District buildings.

Got I-Save Funds?

As the end of the school year approaches, be sure to utilize the I-Save startup funds before it's too late! If your staff is still looking for ideas, here are a few things that some buildings have purchased with their funds:

- Recycling bins (for paper)
- Digital cameras
- Reading software
- Library books

Be Involved: Earth Hour

Here's your opportunity to take part in a global effort! Saturday, March 28th from 8:30 to 9:30 pm is Earth Hour. For one hour, cities, businesses, and individuals around the world will turn off their non-essential lights to show support for action on climate change. For more information visit: <http://www.earthhourUS.org/video.php> and <http://www.earthhourUS.org/FAQ.php> For staff (or parents) looking to share this opportunity with their students, downloadable resources are available at: http://www.earthhourUS.org/action_parents.php

Great Idea!

Point person Aileen Balatico and the staff at Vandenberg had students help create posters for each classroom (shaped like light bulbs) that listed the top ways students could help their class conserve energy.

Those Little Lights...

Did you know that the blue light centered on the bottom of many newer computer screens is actually more than just another standby light? Those blue lights are a sign that the speakers are 'on'. At the end of the day, consider turning off the speakers to increase your building's performance in next month's numbers.

Earth Day is April 22!

The Wayne DPW has partnered with WWCS to offer a plastic bottle recycling competition to the Wayne Elementaries as part of Earth Day. The Wayne Elementaries will collect plastic bottles during the month of April and compare their collection amounts on Earth Day.

If your building is interested in hosting its *own* plastic bottle recycling event during the month of April, contact Nick Thornton at X2161 for information and collection supplies.

For more information on Earth Day (and resources for kids) visit: <http://www.earthday.gov/kids.htm>

Anti-Propping Propaganda

Is the staff at your building still propping doors open when they go outside for recess? Recent EURs at some buildings revealed that a few staff members didn't realize their ID cards would unlock certain outside doors. Please contact B&G to find out how to avoid having your staff propping open doors.

2,000,000 KWH Saved!

For the first 7 months of the I-Save program, WWCS teachers, students, support staff, and administrators have collectively saved over 2 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. Since most of Michigan's power comes from the burning of coal, the power we *didn't* consume saved the burning of over 800 tons of coal. THAT is some serious environmental impact! Congratulations staff & students!

B-I-G Numbers

In describing energy consumption (and power generation) on a global scale, engineers need large units. A common unit of energy is the Terawatt-year (TWyr). One Terawatt-year is equal to 8.76×10^{12} kilowatt hours (the unit your home's electric bill is measured in).