

GOVERNOR'S ENERGY AWARD

CATEGORY: Energy Leadership

RECIPIENT: Jared Comfort, Lawrence, Kansas

In the 2007-08 school year, Schwegler Elementary School in Lawrence celebrated its 50th anniversary. It also received a new, young, energetic first year Principal, Mr. Jared Comfort.

The Schwegler PTA with Mr. Comfort's guidance and approval, adopted an environmental theme for the year to celebrate Schwegler's 50th anniversary. Rather than traditional activities and fundraisers centered on consumable products, the PTA focused the students on wise resource use and energy conservation.

Around an anniversary theme of "Helping the Environment as a Community for the Next 50 Years", the students at Schwegler sold compact fluorescent light bulbs, paper lawn and leaf composting bags and re-usable organic cotton grocery bags (with a picture of their Tree of Knowledge) as fundraising projects.

For activities, the students participated in a bike-a-thon as alternative transportation, planted a Ginkgo tree (considered a living fossil) expanded the schools existing recycling program and participated in "Art for the Sky", a living art project with nationally recognized environmental artist Daniel Dancer.

Directly however, if the 2400 compact fluorescent light bulbs sold at the fundraiser are used an average of 4 hours a day instead of an incandescent light bulb, annual energy savings is 168,000 kilowatt hours and over \$13,400 at 8 cents per Kwh.

This equals almost half of the energy Schwegler Elementary School uses over the course of a year. This energy reduction also means that 425,000 lbs of carbon dioxide, 950 lbs of nitrous oxide, 1600 lbs of sulfur dioxide and 2200 milligrams of mercury will not be emitted into the air each year by power plants that would otherwise have been running to supply the energy used by the incandescent light bulbs.

Likewise, increased use of paper lawn and leaf bags to compost yard waste reduced landfill and increased recycled waste into beneficial compost. Using the Schwegler reusable grocery bags will reduce the use of plastic grocery bags. Encouraging bicycling will increase health and decrease petroleum use.