

GOOD MORNING!



FIRST CUP

Education of conservation

On April 7, I had the pleasure of visiting German Valley Elementary School and participating in their PEAK Energy Day activities. PEAK is a comprehensive educational program designed to empower elementary and middle school students with the knowledge to manage energy use. Through a competitive nomination and selection process, German Valley is one of two pilot schools in northwest Illinois selected to participate in the project. The project is funded by the Northern Illinois Energy Project and is a collaboration of the Citizens' Utility Board, Cook County and the City of Chicago.

PEAK teaches students how to best manage their use of electricity at home and school, to conserve the environment and to save money. Through the program, students learn the skills needed to reduce energy use in their homes by 10 to 25 percent per year. However, the greatest benefit comes from creating a generation of individuals capable of taking control of its energy future.

The three-year project will provide the following opportunities to German Valley Grade School:

- Professional development for teachers of students in grades three through five in energy conservation curriculum;
- Kits for lab activities;
- \$3,000 per year for increasing energy efficiency within the school facility;
- Funding for field trips for energy conversation within the community.

The German Valley students learned about Compact Fluorescent Lamps – smaller light

bulbs that can directly replace standard incandescent bulbs while saving the consumer money and energy. CFLs come in more sizes and shapes than traditional light bulbs and can be used in many lighting applications. They are an excellent, energy-saving choice for most lighting uses. Although the CFLs cost slightly more, they use 75 to 80 percent less energy than incandescent light bulbs and last up to 13 times longer.

The students are enthusiastic about the project and excited about the prospect of teaching their parents and other adults how to save energy and preserve the planet. One student explained, "I am a steward of the earth, and I'm helping save it for the future."

Quickly ...

The German Valley Elementary School is taking orders for CFLs now through April 28. You can help conserve energy by ordering CFL bulbs through the school by calling 815-362-2279.

For comments or news to Good Morning, you can send an e-mail to frontdoor@journalstandard.com. Please put "Good Morning Desk" in the subject line. You can also write to The Journal-Standard, 27 S. State Ave., Box 330, Freeport, IL 61032 or fax to 232-0105.

Jean Liable is NIE manager of The Journal-Standard. Contact her at [jean.liable@](mailto:jean.liable@journalstandard.com)

journalstandard.com
or 232-0141.

