

## OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

“Catalyzing the natural linkage of energy, economics and environment”

### SUCCESS STORY: *Ohio Energy Project*

*The Ohio Energy Project (formerly Ohio NEED) is a program which uses the concept of “kids teaching kids” to enhance energy education for elementary students. Program activities include student leadership training workshops, professional development for teachers, publication of the Ohio energy education newsletter, and the Ohio Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement. Funding for OEP is a public-private partnership. In addition to funding from the OEE, large investor-owned utilities such as American Electric Power and CINergy have funded special OEP projects in their service territories.*

- ★ 9,143 student leaders and teachers trained,
- ★ More than 1,000 schools involved in the program, and
- ★ Almost 1 million students reached by program projects in 1996-97

### APPROACH

The Ohio Energy Project conducts workshops where teachers and students learn about the sources of energy and its efficient use. They take this information, along with a kit of materials, back to their schools and communities. There, they initiate cooperative learning projects, such as energy fairs and recycling programs, which teach others about the critical role of energy in our lives. The Energy Kit includes a guide detailing how OEP activities can help students meet proficiency outcomes, especially in science.

“The Ohio Energy Project is truly a innovative and superior program. It increases student learning and optimizes use of staff development by training students and teachers across all grade levels -- elementary, middle, and high school.”

Becky Grimm, Teacher  
Upper Arlington School District

### RESULTS

Students involved in OEP benefit through leadership training and learning to work effectively in small groups. The program fosters the development of their critical thinking and problem solving skills. Schools benefit through the development of comprehensive energy education, which assists all of their students in meeting proficiency requirements.

The OEP has won numerous awards. In 1995 it was recognized as one of “Ohio’s BEST Practices” in education. The Ohio Alliance for Environment has honored OEP with the Organization Award for Distinguished Service. Numerous Ohio schools have won national recognition for the projects and activities they have undertaken through the OEP.

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### OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

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