

# TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



OCTOBER, 2009



Dear Principals,

As many of you know, our district, like others in the nation, is looking at ways to trim budgets each year as we continue to pull deeper into other resources to balance out debt. I see this program as a great way for our schools to be environmentally friendly and help with budget issues by reducing energy costs for the district.

We teach our students the importance of natural resources in science class. Let us also give them some practical ways to help. Being conscious of conserving our energy by turning off lights, computers and other electrical appliances when they are not in use allows us to be good stewards of our natural resources. Learning this lesson can have a lasting impact on our planet.

I encourage you to take ownership of this project by involving students, teachers and your local PTA. *Together we can make a difference.*

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jerry Roy

## The LISD 'Energy Conservation' Challenge "TURN OUT THE LIGHTS!!!"

Facility Services estimates we have over 20,000 light switch covers in use. Your challenge is to post a reminder on every light switch in every District building by December 18, 2009.

Custom designed light switch covers can promote power conservation in a practical way. They can be customized to suit your building, campus or classroom needs.

### IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED:

- Challenge campus groups or classes to take on this initiative. The project can easily be achieved by National Honor Society, PTA's, Student Council, Environmental Committee or science classes, Adopt-A-School Sponsors etc
- You might run campus contests for best switch plate cover design.
- Not only will you save power and money, you will increase student awareness about energy conservation.
- Templates for light switch covers are featured in the Resource section.
- Personalized stickers could be used as reminders, too, and custom designed to suit your campus.
- The Watt Watchers website features "tickets" students can issue to offenders as well as artwork.

### DID YOU KNOW ....

- ... LISD's Expected Utility Usage for 09-10 School Year is \$ 17.5 million dollars?
- ... Just a 5% reduction in utility usage would result in a savings of \$ 875,000 for the District? Imagine the savings if we, as a district, surpass the 5% reduction!
- ... One computer left on standby overnight uses the same amount of electricity needed to heat an entire bathtub of water. Encourage everyone to turn off all computers overnight!

### RESOURCES:

**Templates—Switch Plate Covers—**  
[wattwatchers.org/pages/lightswitchstickers.htm](http://wattwatchers.org/pages/lightswitchstickers.htm)

**Watt Watchers of Texas** is an energy conservation program for Texas schools designed for K-12 classrooms—[www.wattwatchers.org/](http://www.wattwatchers.org/)

**Disney Planet Challenge for 4/5/6 grades**—an environmental learning competition from The Walt Disney Company—  
[disney.go.com/planetchallenge/](http://disney.go.com/planetchallenge/)

**Light Switch Reminder decals**—multiple resources can be found by searching the internet.

### CAMPUS SUCCESSES

What is being done on YOUR campus to conserve energy and help the environment? Share your campus/building successes with us—we'll feature your good news in a future issue.

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