



San Jacinto River Authority and Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District Implement Water Saving Education Program in Local School District

By: Ronda Trow, Public Relations Manager for SJRA

San Jacinto River Authority and Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District are pleased to announce their participation in the 2015-2016 Resource Action Programs® (RAP) Texas WaterWise™ Program. The program was implemented in the Authority and Districts service area in the state of Texas by 1,303 teachers, students, and their families.

The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District and San Jacinto River Authority Texas WaterWise™ Program, a school-based water and energy efficiency education program, is designed to generate immediate and long term resource savings by bringing interactive, real-world education home to students and their families. The 2015-2016 program was taught in 5th grade throughout the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District and San Jacinto River Authority service area.

The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District and San Jacinto River Authority Texas WaterWise Program team identifies and enrolls students and teachers within the designated service area. The program physically begins with classroom discussions using a Student Guide that provides the foundations of using water and energy efficiently. It is followed by hands-on, creative, problem-solving activities led by the classroom teacher. All program materials support Texas Essentials Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) to allow the program to fit easily into a teacher's existing curriculum and requirements. The participating classroom teachers follow the Teacher Book and lesson plan. Information is given to guide lessons throughout the program in order to satisfy each student's

individual needs, whether they are visual, auditory, or kinesthetic learners. The Texas WaterWise Kit and Student Workbook comprise the take-home portion of the program.

Students receive a kit containing high efficiency measures they use to install within their homes. With the help of their parents/guardians, students install the kit measures and complete a home survey. The act of installing and monitoring new water and energy efficiency devices in their homes allows students to put their learning into practice. Here, participants and their parents/guardians realize actual water and energy savings within their home, benefitting two generations.

A critical element of RAP program design is the use of new knowledge through reporting.

Identical tests were taken by students prior to the program and again upon program completion to measure knowledge gained. Scores and subject knowledge improved from 62% to 89%.

For more than 23 years, Resource Action Programs (RAP) has designed and implemented Measure-Based Education® programs that inspire change in household energy and water use while delivering significant, measurable resource savings. All RAP programs feature a proven blend of innovative education, comprehensive implementation services, and hands-on activities to put efficiency knowledge to work in students' homes. RAP has a strong reputation for providing a high level of client service as part of a wide range of energy efficiency education solutions for utilities, municipalities, states, community agencies, corporations,

and more. In 2013, RAP was the only conservation services provider honored by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) as one of 12 top programs that provides sustained achievement. RAP was honored for market penetration, innovative design, and its ability to achieve substantial/sustained energy and water savings.

"I liked getting families involved and students gaining understanding."

Teacher

Willie E. Williams Elementary School

"Thank you for lowering my water bill!"

Parent

Mitchell Intermediate School

"What I liked best about the program was the materials the students were able to do with their families. They were so excited to teach their parents."

Teacher

Lyon Elementary

SJRA and Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District are actively seeking additional partners in Montgomery County to assist with future programs. Please contact Ronda Trow, Public Relations Manager for SJRA, at 936-828-0285 for additional information. ♦