



Energy and Sustainability Newsletter

JUNE 2016

Draft landscape architectural plans for the Earth Month grand prize—a Texas native garden

EARTH MONTH 2016 WINNER ANNOUNCED

In April, HISD's Energy and Sustainability Department premiered Earth Month, a new educational and awareness campaign tied to the international celebration of Earth Day. Schools voluntarily pledged to participate in a series of activities designed to educate students and staff on how their choices impact the environment. Participating schools earned points toward the grand prize of a new Texas native plant garden.

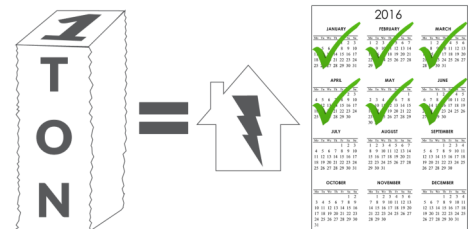
"My favorite part of Earth Month is being given the opportunity to make short presentations to the students," said Debbie Reagan, Manager, Energy and Sustainability. "The enthusiasm in the classrooms is contagious."

Piney Point Elementary School won first place, and Hamilton Middle School came in as a close second while Briargrove Elementary School placed third. Honorable mentions go to Eliot Elementary School, Travis Elementary School and Energy Institute High School, for completing at least one activity in each of the three categories of "Campus," "Community" and "Connection".

A big thank you to students and staff from the 16 HISD schools that pledged to participate in Earth Month 2016. We look forward to seeing you (and some new faces) next April!

Eco-Tip

A significant amount of energy and natural resources can be saved by double-sided printing and copying on copiers, reusing single-sided paper, using electronic mail and circulating documents with routing slips. Preventing 1 ton of wasted paper saves enough energy to power an average home for 6 months.



Source: Department of Energy

DID YOU KNOW?

- HISD has committed that 39 buildings re-built or renovated under the 2012 Bond Program will be designed to LEED certification standards.
- LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is a points-based system where the more points you earn, the higher your certification level is for high performance green buildings.
- As of April, 2014, HISD has 17 LEED certified campuses and 8 additional campuses that are in the certification process.



Piney Point ES Teacher, Kimberly Boyce-Quentin, with students

ECO-EVENTS

JUNE – Great Outdoors Month



JUNE 8 – World Oceans Day

JUNE 5 – World Environment Day

Employee Spotlight

Mrs. Kimberly Boyce-Quentin is a STEM Lab instructor and G/T Coordinator at Piney Point ES and served as the school's Champion during Earth Month 2016.

What inspired you to become sustainable at Piney Point ES?

I took my first steps on the sustainability pathway when I applied for and was awarded a BP A+ for Energy grant. It was a fantastic learning experience—for me as much as my students! That was when we started our Green Team to introduce recycling. Progress since then has been intermittent, so I am very excited to have a partner in the Energy and Sustainability department to provide information, resources, and keep us on track!

What activities do you take part of or charge of at Piney Point?

As an extension of my G/T role (and as a passionate advocate for Project Base Learning!), I also plan and manage our six to seven student-led learning festivals, STEM Lab instructor, Schlumberger Excellence in Educational Development, Coding and Robotics Clubs and sponsor competition teams. Name That Book teams, Sponsor and head coach of our UIL teams. We participate in about 26 to 32 events in the Academic and Speech contests, One-Act Play contest. We are a Leader In Me school and I am proud to be a member of our Lighthouse Team. I embrace roles like campus sponsor for the ADL's No Place for Hate and the NWF's Eco-Schools.

What is your most rewarding experience, your proudest moment since you have been with the district?

This one is impossible! I have been extraordinarily fortunate in my career with HISD. If I had to pick one, I would say this year's Eco-School's Monarch Hero program has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had teaching. It has really been the combination/ culmination of many elements beginning with a Fund for Teachers grant I was awarded for wildlife studies in Iceland in 2012.

How competitive were you and your husband, who is also a teacher at Sinclair ES throughout the Earth Month 2016 activities?

We do tease each other quite a bit about that! Actually, we never really compete - no matter how many contests pit Piney Point against Sinclair! He is always my partner and #1 cheerleader!

What future sustainable projects do you have coming for Piney Point in the next school year?

I want to reinstate the Panther Power Patrol and significantly reduce our power consumption, and launch the Walking School Bus program at Piney Point to promote healthy habits, community building, and reduce our dismissal traffic. I also hope to build partnerships with some of our high schools to remake our vegetable gardens, begin composting, and expand our orchard.

About Us

The Energy and Sustainability Department is a branch of the Business Solutions—Facilities Services Department, and is focused on reducing the HISD's utility cost and environmental impact. To be featured in an issue, tweet us your story at [@HISDGoGreen](https://twitter.com/HISDGoGreen).