

# New Energy Academy

## Educating for a sustainable future

<http://www.pge.com/about/community/education/newenergyacademy/>

In partnership with



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## New Energy Academy: Why is PG&E Involved?

### **Vision:**

- Foster students who are knowledgeable about energy
- Make students aware of all career opportunities in the utility and energy field
- Generate a workforce development pipeline

### **Objectives:**

- Increase the number of students, including underrepresented youth, who graduate from high school prepared to enter the workforce and/or college
- Raise student attendance and GPA
- Increase the number of qualified candidates for the industry

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## Update: New Energy Academy Schools

- Berkeley High School
- Berkeley Unified School District
- Edison High School
- Fresno Unified School District
- Foothill High School
- Twin Rivers School District
- Independence High School
- Kern County School District
- Venture Academy
- San Joaquin County Office of Education

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## New Energy Academy: Why is PG&E Involved?

### **Strategies:**

- Partner with CA Department of Education (CDE)
- Launch five New Energy California Partnership Academies.
- Engage educators at each school in the planning process and curriculum development
- Develop a network of stakeholders for high school education around energy
- Share intent and results of the effort through various communications vehicles and at public events

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# Primary Roles and Responsibilities

## PG&E

Fund new Energy Career Academies (1 million dollars) in 2011  
Liaison with CDE and academies  
I.D. schools with CDE  
Leverage involvement of stakeholders, business and nonprofit partners  
Serve as curriculum advisors and volunteers  
Disseminate results

## California Department of Education

Continue academy process and funding  
Share resources and opportunities  
Provide administrative oversight  
Ensure fidelity with CPA model  
Collaborate on work-based learning experiences  
Assist in curriculum development  
Facilitate and arrange staff development and collaboration opportunities  
Collect, evaluate and share program and student performance data

## Schools

Organize teacher teams  
Implement grant and reporting requirements  
Support curriculum development  
Leverage partners  
Attend trainings  
Recruit students per model  
Communicate academy news with their local community

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## Update: How are we doing?

### 2009

- Spring/Summer: Vetted and selected 5 schools (with support from CDE)
- Summer: Initiative named: New Energy Academy; MOUs signed between partners/schools
- Summer 2009: Curriculum research
- Fall: announced initiative at media event at Berkeley H.S. with local, state dignitaries; teachers; students; nonprofit partners

### 2010

- Spring/Summer: Teacher Training
- Fall: Implemented grade 10 for all New Energy Academies (data is being collected)
- Two energy fairs: one in Bakersfield and the other in Fresno

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## Update: How are we doing?

2011

- Spring: Committed \$1 million to the program, including \$100k for classroom enhancements and curriculum development and \$1k for scholarships for each graduate of the program
- Summer: Teacher Training
- Fall: Grade 11 will begin

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## Update: What do the students say?

- I really appreciated PG&E coming to our school and donating a million dollars to the New Energy Academies. The thousand dollar scholarship for each academy student was amazing and we are all grateful for such a generous gift. Our school and student body will really benefit from the donation and we would like to personally thank them for keeping us in mind when they have so many other important things to think about.

**Erin Cantrell**

- In class our teachers have us learning about the many sources of energy. They teach us how we can preserve energy and how we the people can try to save our world. Not only do we learn about energy and utility but also about business and responsibility.

**Morgan Cortez**

- Being in the library today with all the PG&E workers, our academy advisory, and all the other people was a great experience...It showed me that people that don't know me have faith in me to succeed and it encouraged me to keep working so that I can get into a good college and put the money they gave me to good use.

**Crystal Hammond**

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## Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities

- Demonstrate PG&E's committee to education (pioneer in energy education)
- Help educate students about energy, the utility field, and career awareness
- Aid in adding the practical application that gives meaning to the theoretical knowledge being learned in the classroom
- Assist in increasing high school graduation rates
- Supply guest speakers, field trip sites, teacher externship and student internships to academies
- Input into energy curriculum statewide utilizing CDE channels
- Leverage our resources to best support effective educational strategies and provide more opportunities for students to succeed

### Challenges

- Is uncharted territory
- Is difficult to obtain the appropriate support personnel to assist the project
- Are not able to help all academies and their students
- Procure suitable curriculum for high school students
- Communicate everything that needs to be communicated

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Thank you!

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