

Helping schools lower energy costs, improve the learning environment and achieve energy goals.



September 2024 Newsletter

School Uplift

Announcements

Register for Workshop 3!



Join us September 24 or September 26 to learn about operations and maintenance (O&M) and Learning Environment Grants.

In Workshop 3, we will dive into the details of the O&M of your facilities along with tools and guidance on how to utilize your Opportunities Registers to optimize your energy savings.

It is highly recommended that someone from your facilities or maintenance team attend. Additionally, we will explain the Learning Environment Grant process and next steps for your school to begin identifying scope options to submit for TVA approval.

Register here:

- [September 24 \(Afternoon\) - 2:30 pm CT / 3:30 pm ET](#)
- [September 26 \(Morning\) - 8:30 am CT / 9:30 am ET](#)

Reminders

Building Energy Upgrade Grant submissions are due September 13 by 3:00 pm CT!

The deadline to submit your school's Building Energy Upgrade Grant application is **Friday, September 13 by 3:00 pm CT!** Following submissions, applications will be reviewed based on the age and status of your building equipment. This grant is awarded to address energy burden in schools with deferred maintenance and poor energy performance.

- If you have any questions about the application or process, please submit questions [here](#).
- You can also review the Grant Webinar recording [here](#).

Apply by utilizing the application links below.

TN Schools

KY, MS, AL, NC, GA & VA Schools

TVA STEM Classroom Grant



In partnership with the [Bicentennial Volunteers Inc.](#), TVA is offering up to \$5,000 in grant funds for STEM learning projects that support TVA's focus areas of environment, energy, economic and career development and community problem-solving.

This grant is an additional opportunity for STEM funds provided by TVA and is not related to School Uplift Uplift's grant opportunities.

- Applications are open now until **September 15**.
- Eligible applicants are teachers or school administrators in **public or private schools**, grades K-12.
- TVA will award \$1.5 million across the Valley this year to fund STEM learning projects.

Apply now

Use ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager® to help your school keep track of energy usage

Make sure to enter your data from your electricity bill into ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM) every month.

Your Energy Coach will discuss ESPM in an upcoming coaching call, but if you have specific questions, please reach out.

- [Jen Hathaway](#)
- [Tom Irwin](#)
- [Whitney Stewart](#)
- [Sarah Cline](#)



Monthly Coaching Calls

Your Energy Coach will be reaching out soon to schedule a Coaching Call. These meetings are required for School Uplift completion; however, past Champions reported that these calls reduced the stress of adopting energy efficiency behaviors and planning for community engagement. Together, you will review current program priorities, discuss next steps and craft activities best suited for your school.

Have a few questions or need help between Coaching Calls?

Come chat with an Energy Coach during our office hours each week, open to all Energy Team members!

- [Tuesday Mornings: 7:30-8:30am CT/ 8:30-9:30am ET](#)
- [Thursday Mornings: 7:30-8:30am CT/ 8:30-9:30am ET](#)

Upcoming Events



Learning Environment Grant Submissions

After Workshop 3, schools will begin to draft **three LEG scopes** to submit for approval before bringing to the students for voting! Don't worry, there will be plenty of time to submit scopes; the window will be September 30 – November 22.

In the meantime, compete for \$25K in Learning Environment Grant funding!

As of August 1, your school began competing against over 100 other schools to receive up to \$25,000 in grant funding. The Learning Environment Grant taps into participants' competitive spirits, which has shown to be effective in generating higher energy savings for schools.

Schools will receive points from activities such as:

- Meeting with your Energy Team each month, with submission of meeting minutes.
- Updating your Energy Bills in ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager each month in a timely manner.
- Implementing engagement campaigns with staff and students to motivate energy saving behaviors.

Schools that complete all program requirements will be awarded \$10,000, while the top ten highest scoring schools will be awarded \$25,000!

Spotlight Action

Information Request Form and Site Assessments

So far, 85 schools have submitted their Information Request Form (IRF) and historic energy data! You rock!

If you have not submitted your IRF or your electric and gas historical data, we encourage you to do this as soon as possible. Your Site Assessment with an engineer will be scheduled once this is completed. If it was sent back for missing information, please provide the missing information. Some of this information along with energy data is needed to create your ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager account.

[Information Request Form](#)

If your school district's central office or facilities team is unable to gather data on your behalf, ask your Energy Coach or Local Power Company contact for help gathering 24 months of historical energy data. This helps us move forward with your Site Assessment and establish your ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager account online.

School Spotlight

Energy Monster Workshop: Union Elementary



Union Elementary School (Gallatin, TN) welcomed their Local Power Company, Gallatin Department of Electricity, to host the TVA EnergyRight's Energy Monster Workshop to their students!

This features Louie the Lighting Bug and Spark the Energy Monster where the students learn where energy comes from, how we use energy on a daily basis and how to help their teachers and families save energy.

The students participated in various game show-style questions and mini-interviews to share energy saving tips!

Your school could be featured here!

After each engagement, school event, staff meeting or classroom lesson that reinforces School Uplift's energy saving lessons, submit a photo or document to your Energy Coach. You'll receive program points and may be featured in our monthly newsletter!

Connect

Have questions? Connect with your energy coach!



Your Energy Coach can provide support, answer any program questions, help brainstorm ideas for engagement and much more!

- [Jen Hathaway](#)
- [Tom Irwin](#)
- [Whitney Stewart](#)
- [Sarah Cline](#)

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