



Green Schools Challenge February 2018:



Wind and Solar

Does the blustery weather have you thinking about wind? Nebraska is fortunate to have some of the [highest wind potential](#) in the United States, and high levels of [solar potential](#). Wind and solar power offer two of the most productive alternative sources of energy to power Nebraskan homes, businesses, schools, and even our vehicles. Development of these two energy sources is booming both in Nebraska and across the United States.

Design Your Own Activity

Do you have ideas about how to incorporate solar and wind energy into discussions you're already having with your class? You could try having the class build [solar ovens](#) or [wind mills](#) from common crafting supplies and test them under different circumstances. Consider incorporating the impact of energy needs into other discussions that you are already having with your class: science, history, and even English are nearly always influenced by energy needs. Below are some class plans that you could incorporate into your classroom:

Example Activities For Your Green Team

1. Take your class on a field trip to a local wind farm or solar array. Kearney has both kinds of facilities nearby. SoCore runs the state's largest solar array just outside of Kearney near the intersection of 56th St. and Antelope Ave. Although the nearest wind farm is a bit further away, there is a project located at the Central Community College in Hastings.
2. For older students, consider using this [lesson plan](#), which incorporates circuitry, building batteries, and the effect of a distributed renewables system on power grids. Students will have the opportunity to learn using hands-on approaches and critically think about how electricity is created and distributed.
3. For a quick infusion of energy into your classroom, watch this [short video](#) on how wind turbines work and [this video](#) on how solar panels work.
4. Compete to see who can finish this [word search](#) or [crossword](#) on renewable energy first.
5. Consider trying [these activities](#) with your students to learn about energy and solar power through hands-on learning.

Submit Photos

Take photos of your Green Team engaging in your activities, and email them to gogreen@kearneycats.com. You may see your submissions on the Green Schools Challenge photo site, or in the sustainability newsletter!

Let Us Know What You Did!

Report your progress and earn recognition for your school. [Fill out the Activity Reporting Form](#) to let us know which activity you did for this month!

Questions?

We're here to answer any questions you may have, talk through ideas or provide further resources. Just email gogreen@kearneycats.com.

RECOGNITION LEVELS

All KPS schools have the opportunity to earn recognition for their participation in the Green Schools Initiative each year. The more activities you complete, the more recognition you receive! For 2018-2019, the following three levels of recognition are available:

- **Level 1 (Green Performance)** - Participation in 5 activities during the year. Schools receive a framed certificate of recognition, \$50 for Green Team Activities next year, and \$100 for the Principal's budget.
- **Level 2 (Green Achievement)**- Participation in 6 - 9 activities during the year. Schools receive \$150 for Green Team activities next year, an award banner, and \$200 for the Principal's budget
- **Level 3 (Green Excellence)** - Participation in 10 or more activities during the year. Schools receive \$300 for Green Team activities next year, a large award banner, and \$400 for the Principal's budget. In addition, all schools that achieve Level 3 participation are placed into a raffle; the selected school receives \$450 to spend on district-approved items. Approved items could entail smart power strips, vending machine energy misers, native landscaping/trees, rain barrels, native plants for classrooms, and indoor/outdoor recycling containers. All items must be approved by the district office prior to purchase.