

2012 TEEA Winner Youth Category: Chester E. Jordan Elementary School, El Paso

Narrator:

El Paso's Chester Jordan Elementary is the most environmentally sophisticated school in the region. Students are proud to share those environmental lessons inside and outside the classroom.

Maria Salas, Co-Faculty Sponsor, Green Science Team:

It would be an after-school club, it would have volunteers come, and as a team that group would teach others in the school.

Narrator:

The students who joined that group became known as the Green Science Team.

April Duchene, Student:

We feel like we're doing our part in the community

Narrator:

Some help with recycling.

Student:

Just crush the boxes.

Narrator:

Coming in early each Friday to empty collection bins, the Watt Watchers conduct spot checks to ensure lights and computers are turned off, and that energy's not otherwise wasted.

Alana Ramirez, Student:

She should open the windows instead of turning on the lights.

Narrator:

There's a checklist to accompany the inspection.

Kimberly Williams, Student:

In this case they did good, so we will leave them a thank-you note.

Narrator:

Students even train as tour guides.

April Duchene, Student:

We have our windows open all the time

Narrator:

Pointing out and explaining unique features like this 75-thousand gallon rainwater collection system.

Emmanuel Melendez, Student:

The rainwater that falls collects in the roof that is tilted so the pipes will get all the water and collect in the cistern

Narrator:

Last year they transformed a barren courtyard into a vegetable and butterfly garden with the help of soldiers from the Fort Bliss Recycling Team.

Sgt. Muhammad Sheikn, President, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, Fort Bliss:

Right now a year afterwards it's just amazing how this garden has transformed from being a sandpit to what it is now.

Narrator:

Whether it's working as part of a larger team, or bicycling to school to reduce emissions, students at Chester Elementary are united behind a powerful message.

Students shout:

Take Care of Texas!