



energizing student potential

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2017-2018

# Energizing Student Potential

## Putting Energy into STEM in the Classroom

### Program Guidelines and Application

*Applications must be received by  
May 1, 2017*

How to apply:

Apply online at [www.need.org/esp](http://www.need.org/esp)

or

email application to:

The NEED Project  
Attn: Mary Spruill at [mspruill@need.org](mailto:mspruill@need.org)

The Exelon Foundation, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas, North Shore Gas, and BP America, in partnership with the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project, launched Energizing Student Potential, a STEM-focused energy program for grades 5 - 8 in their respective customer regions in Illinois and Indiana (<http://www.need.org//Files/ESP/ESPeligibleCounties.pdf>) in the 2015-2016 school year. This program brings together Illinois and Indiana standards-based curriculum for use in the classroom or in afterschool programs in public and private schools and the resources of the region's largest energy companies. The program will help schools meet Next Generation Science Standards goals and more.

Energizing Student Potential is designed to help educators bring energy into the classroom and to provide all the tools and resources necessary for students and teachers to learn together, explore energy together, and teach their local communities about energy. The program begins with an energizing two-day workshop in early fall (The 2016 workshop was hosted at the Museum of Science and Industry in October 2016) and culminates with a Celebration of Energy at which participating schools share the community education programs and the STEM projects they have completed throughout the year.

This three year program will accept 40 schools per year and provide the schools with the following:

- A \$500 cash grant to be used to support the STEM Project and Community Project
- \$3,000 of hands-on kits and curriculum
- An Energizing Student Potential Energy Fair Kit to host an Energy Fair and Carnival at your school
- Access to Educational Energy Audits, Field Trips and Classroom Visits
- Two-Day Professional Development for a team of 2 teachers per school and a One-Day refresh workshop mid-year
- Celebration of Energy hosted as a culminating event at the end of the school year
- Connections to STEM professionals to help students see all the possibilities of STEM and Energy Careers

Teachers and students engage in science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities in the classroom while learning fundamental principles of energy use and conservation. Students learn best when engaged in inquiry learning — and the activities and explorations included in the program allow them to think, explore, share, and develop a profound respect for energy and the world around them.

We know that teaching others helps us learn as well and the Kids Teaching Kids philosophy woven throughout The NEED Project curriculum helps keep students of all learning styles engaged and excited to learn. The lessons and projects in this program are designed to allow students to teach their peers as well as their local community.

We hope you will join us for this exciting opportunity.

**Applications are due on or before May 1, 2017.** Apply online at [www.need.org/esp](http://www.need.org/esp)

## What is expected of schools participating in Energizing Student Potential?

1. Select a team of science and/or technology teachers to implement the program. It is recommended that no fewer than two teachers participate – to provide support for each other and to reach the most students. Consider selecting a career and technology teacher and a science teacher, for example. Two teachers from your team will participate in a mandatory two-day training session (In 2016, the workshop was hosted at the Museum of Science and Industry). This training session is designed and delivered by The NEED Project and breakfast, lunch, parking, and professional development units are provided to all participating teachers. Substitute reimbursement is provided to the school or district. Attendance and full participation is required for acceptance to the program. Please remember to secure teacher attendance when submitting your application. Note: For schools more than 2 hours away from Chicago, there will be options for hotel and mileage reimbursement. A One-Day Mid-Year Refresh Workshop will be hosted as well.
2. Work with students, faculty, parents and community members to plan and implement an energy focused STEM project in your community. This project is to be completed and submitted by **April 25, 2018**.
3. Incorporate the program's energy-focused curriculum and related activities into your 5th-8th grade science and technology classrooms/programs during between October and May.
4. Host an Energy Fair at your school for the local community. This Energy Fair will include an Energy Carnival and hands-on energy lessons for your school community. Schools will be provided an Energy Fair Kit that will include all needed resources for the Energy Fair and a \$200 Energy Fair grant for any necessary supplies.
5. Work with NEED to plan for the educational energy audit experience for a select team of students. NEED's Certified Energy Manager will work with a group of students to survey the school building and make recommendations for increasing energy conservation in the school. Students execute both school and home energy audits.
6. Work with NEED to select field trips and classroom visits that will enhance the program in your school.
7. Participate in monthly "how's it going" calls or email surveys to be certain the program is meeting classroom and school needs.
8. Share about your program via your school and community communication networks and social media. For example, PTA newsletter, community newsletter, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter.
9. Execute the STEM project and create a presentation, video, and/or student performance about the project and its results. Submit the project for review by **April 25, 2018**. Projects will be reviewed, and top projects will be selected to present at the Energizing Student Potential Celebration in May 2018. Participation from all schools is required.
10. Complete teacher and student evaluations and submit to NEED no later than **May 30, 2018**.

# Energizing Student Potential

## Application for Participation

*Applications are due on May 1. To learn more and apply online go to [www.need.org/esp](http://www.need.org/esp).*

Please be sure to submit all application components and respond to all questions:

### 1. School Information:

School  
Name of Person Completing Application  
Title  
Address  
City, State, Zip  
Phone  
Email  
School District  
County  
% of free lunch  
Public, Private, Charter?

### 2. Principal of the School

Name  
Phone  
Email

### 3. Additional Information

Grades taught at this school  
Number of students attending this school  
Number of students participating in your proposed program  
Name of person responsible for fulfilling program requirements  
Name of person responsible for communication with NEED (best if it is the teacher team attending training)  
Email address for person responsible for communication with NEED

### 4. Please provide responses to the following questions:

Why should your school be selected to participate in the program?  
What grade level(s) will you include in the program?  
How do you plan to implement the program in the classroom and/or club? Please explain.  
What do you believe the program will add to your students' academic and leadership development?  
What energy and environmental activities do you currently have underway at your school?  
How will the program enhance your school's learning environment?  
What do you and your students plan to do as your STEM project? (This may change after training.)  
How will the program help you overcome any challenges your school is currently facing?  
How will your students benefit from the program?

**5. Endorsements and Acceptance of Program Expectations**

NEED evaluations have shown that the most successful schools have support at the administrative level. Does the school have the active support of the principal/vice principal/curriculum specialist to provide the administrative support needed for the project? Check any/all that have indicated support for your school to participate in the project:

- District Superintendent or County Superintendent of Schools
- One or more School Board Members
- Principal/Assistant Principal
- District and/or school curriculum specialist (science, technology, etc.)

**6. Budget**

Please compile and submit a PDF/Word/Excel file of a draft budget to detail use of the cash grant for the STEM Challenge/Community Outreach Project (Up to \$500). Also submit an IRS W9 for the school or organization (PTO, etc) accepting the grant funds for your program.

**7. Signature \_\_\_\_\_**

By signing above, you certify that, if selected, your school has the administrative approval and support to fully participate in Energizing Student Potential and accepts the expectations of the program.