

## Conserve Energy

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*PNM spokeswoman Laura Chabries points to an hourglass to educate students by how much water can be saved by reducing their shower time.*

Public Service Company of New Mexico are distributing energy efficiency kits to 4,500 fifth-graders in cities across New Mexico so they can launch their own home energy hunt as part of the company's Think! Energy program designed by the National Energy Foundation.

PNM representative gave about 20 of the energy efficiency kits to Buena Vista Elementary School fifth-graders Monday afternoon.

The purpose of the program is to assist teachers and students to think about energy and take action now to save energy for the future.

According to their website, PNM provides electricity to more than 500,000 customers in 40 communities and seven pueblos in New Mexico.



*PNM spokeswoman Laura Chabries answers questions from Buena Vista Elementary fifth-grade students during an energy saving education program Monday.*

From now until Nov. 7, PNM will bring the energy efficient kits to students in Belen, Clayton, Los Lunas, Bosque Farms, Silver City, Deming, Las Vegas, and Lordsburg. Students from Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and Santa Fe received their kits earlier this year.

The program educates teachers and students alike about the use of energy-efficient devices throughout the household and to expand and promote energy literacy. Students will receive a kit with easy to install items including a low-flow showerhead, faucet aerators, compact fluorescent bulbs and a night light. Guides are also provided for families to complete the installation together and learn how to reduce their energy waste.

PNM Community Manager Mary Parra said the kits go to the schools that responded to their challenge.

Parra said the kits also come with instructions to help teachers present the program to their students.

"I think it's important especially in this day and time to know about conserving energy. People are so focused on recycling that energy efficacy becomes important too," said Parra. "And as long as the kids understand what they can do to help, they are very eager to learn and do just that."

Parra said the program recently started in the Albuquerque Metropolitan area and has been expanded to the rest of PNM's service area.

The opportunity for PNM to teach about energy saving is presented to every school and the teachers who have responded will get a visit from PNM presenters, she said.

PNM spokesperson Britny Fudge said she was excited to see the students participate and learn about preserving energy.

"I think it's great we're teaching kids how to save energy," said Fudge. "We're giving them the tools and skills they need to save money for their families in the future."

According to the National Energy Foundation's website, the Think! Energy program is easy to implement and reinforces learning requirements with relevant content and inquiry based activities. The NEF website also states, the program gives students the knowledge and tools necessary to make a significant difference in electricity, natural gas and water usage in both their home and community, and along with PNM they are proud to demonstrate their commitment to improving the communities they service.