

## School energy storage belarus

**Project Outcomes:** A contest of project initiatives on energy efficiency was held in three Regions - Minsk, Hrodna and Viciebsk. 4 winners out of 33 applicants were selected: Secondary School No 4 (Dziar?ynsk), Nursery/Kindergarten No 6 (A?miany), Nursery/Kindergarten No 45 (Hrodna) and Viciebsk State Machine Building Vocational/Technical College named after M.F. Shmyrev.

The installation of solar panels allows cutting the costs for heating by 50-100 percent (depending on the season). The use of a heat-recovery system reduces the heat coming out with the exhaust gas by 60-70 percent. The walls and the roof in the educational institutions have been provided with the heat insulation. As the result, the energy consumption for space heating will be reduced by 35 percent from the overall heat consumption.

During the training workshops and seminars held by the Project staff, the teachers of the pilot establishments learned how to explain in simple terms the complicated aspects of energy saving. 27 teachers were selected and trained by the project's experts to teach EE issues at optional classes in educational institutions.

As part of the Project, teachers and students of the pilot establishments held educational games, matinees, excursions and contests in the kindergartens. Thus, the number of project stakeholders - local residents - kept growing.

Four educational institutions will act as demonstration sites for the introduction of energy-efficient technologies demonstrating the benefits of using renewable energy sources.

The latest edition of the school newspaper at Gomel School Number 40 is almost done. Student reporter Yulia is finishing up a story about 9th grader Lesha, who switches off his family's electrical appliances whenever they are not in use. As a result, electricity bills at Lesha's home dropped by 250,000 rubles, the equivalent of \$30; his parents bought him a cell phone with the money they saved. Lesha dreams of buying a computer with future savings.

Gomel boasts the country's first energy savings museum and even has an energy savings theme song. In April 2011, the city hosted the final round of a nationwide school competition for energy savings projects. School Number 40 was asked to share their experience with teachers and students from all over Belarus.

Students explained how they developed an energy plan - 270 Days of Frugality - for each school day. They have a resource &quot;piggy bank,&quot; where they add up their energy savings. On Wednesday nights, pupils turn off lights and disconnect electric appliances in their apartments for five minutes.

Teacher Dmitri V. Kolesnikov created an energy savings club. Students and teachers collect cards on which

they record useful ways to save resources. Sixth grader Grigori writes: "I have already saved 78,000 rubles by turning off unnecessary appliances." Alexandra, another sixth grader, notes: "I used an energy calculator to calculate that it was cheaper to take a shower than a bath; now our family saves by taking showers."

First graders keep diaries of small discoveries and achievements in saving electricity, water and family funds. First grader Anya writes: "My Dad and I close air vents when Mom is not cooking, and the house becomes warmer." Together with their parents, children inspected boilers and furnaces at their homes and analyzed ways to save.

Older students developed advanced energy-saving technologies along with models that actually work. One is an interactive map of the country's energy generation sources. It includes combined heat and power plants, hydroelectric stations, wind machines and a projected nuclear power plant.

Principal Zinaida Kutsanova comments on her school's energy saving ways: "Our children are not simply doing what they're told without thinking; this grabs their attention, they grasp it quickly and teach it to their parents, siblings and friends. Changes started occurring both inside and outside school premises. Now we can safely say that those participating include pupils and their parents, as well as local residents."

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