Introduction to School Uplift

Why School Uplift engagement matters

Did you know that as much as 30% of a school district's total energy is used inefficiently or unnecessarily? Raising awareness of energy waste and energy conservation is a big part of School Uplift. By having everyone in your school begin to learn and practice new energy–saving behaviors, your school can reduce energy waste and save energy and money. Plus, everyone can begin to build smart energy habits that last a lifetime.

And it's not just everyone in the school who gets to be involved in School Uplift. It's also your broader school community — parents, caregivers, board members, elected officials, volunteer groups and more. This program gives you an opportunity to strengthen relationships while increasing awareness of your school programs and activities. School Uplift provides a way for the whole community to get involved in creating a brighter future for the next generation!

Get to know your School Uplift Engagement Binder

Your binder is your go-to resource for K-12 activities and tools designed to get your school community excited about saving energy and money! Within each section, you'll find:

- An explainer of what each activity is, directions for how to get students involved and suggestions for how to increase awareness of each activity throughout the entire school.
- Themed activities for October through April that you can use in your classrooms, after-school clubs, extracurricular groups or wherever students gather in school for adult-led instruction.
- Outreach materials to keep caregivers, volunteers and other community members informed about your school's participation and progress, including access to the "Introduction to School Uplift" video and sample communications.

With a focus on student and community engagement, the School Uplift Engagement Binder is your companion to the School Uplift SEM Manual. The School Uplift SEM Manual covers operations and maintenance activities. If your school did not receive this manual, please contact your Energy Coach immediately.

Use the materials that work best for your school

Everything in this binder is here to help your school reach its energy-reduction goal. The activities provided support the larger efforts your operations and maintenance team is undertaking. Your school isn't required to use these activities, but we do recommend trying at least a few out! You know your school best, so we encourage you to use the resources that fit your school community.

Each school receives two copies of the *School Uplift Engagement Binder*. Please make sure the binders are given to your school's designated Energy Champion. Your Energy Champion is encouraged to share the binder materials with appropriate staff and students, especially the Engagement Champion on the Energy Team.

How to introduce School Uplift to staff

We've created some sample language for you to use when you introduce School Uplift to faculty and staff. You can use the script below in an email, in a staff meeting or as a handout in faculty mailboxes. For additional support, please reference the elevator pitch exercise and the Energy Team roles and descriptions found in the "Effective Energy Teams" webinar. Reach out to your Energy Coach if you need access to the webinar.

Script: We're excited to share that our school is participating in School Uplift, a program from TVA EnergyRight® and [LPC_NAME]. This yearlong program is designed to help the school save energy, make our space more comfortable and reduce energy costs.

Our operations and maintenance staff will be taking the lead on a lot of this work, but everyone will have a role in helping us meet our energy-reduction goals by learning about and practicing energy-saving behaviors. We have an Energy Team led by our very own Energy Champion, [INSERT ENERGY_CHAMPION_NAME], who will be our onsite point of contact for all things School Uplift.

This is an incredible opportunity for us. Our energy choices make a huge impact on our total school expenses each year. Past School Uplift participants have saved up to \$40,000 in energy costs! Our goal this year is to reduce our energy use by [INSERT GOAL_PERCENTAGE (between 5-10%)].

What can we do?

It turns out that small changes to our daily habits can make a significant difference over time. For example, here are a few tips we'll work on as a school to save energy:

- Turn off the lights if you're the last one to leave the room.
- Turn off power strips at the end of the day.
- Turn off electronics at the end of the day, including computers, monitors and document cameras.
- Close doors, windows and blinds/shades.

Energy activities for students

School Uplift has provided us with different energy awareness activities for students. You can use these in your classrooms to introduce, reinforce and encourage students to work on different kinds of energy-saving behaviors. [INSERT Share details of any planned energy awareness activities, including any of the ones listed in this binder.]

Tracking our progress

We'll also have an Energy Dashboard that will show how our school is progressing toward our energy-reduction goal. [INSERT Share the location of your Energy Dashboard.]

Access to grants

As a School Uplift participant, our school will be eligible to apply for some really exciting grants, including a Learning Environment Grant and a Building Energy Upgrade Grant to improve our school's overall energy efficiency.

How to get involved

Be on the lookout for information from [INSERT ENERGY_CHAMPION_NAME] about energy-related activities you can do with your students. If you're interested in learning more or want to get involved with the monthly activities, please connect with [INSERT ENERGY_CHAMPION_NAME].

School Uplift contact information

TVA EnergyRight® Senior Program Manager

Clay Hoover | gchoover@tva.gov

Energy Coaches
Thomas Irwin tlirwin@tva.gov
Other:
Other:
Other:
TRC Program Manager
Brittany Alvarado balvarado@trccompanies.com
Local Power Company (LPC) Representative
List your school's LPC representative and contact information in the space below.
Your School's Energy Team List your school's Energy Team names and contact information in the spaces below.
Energy Champion
Energy Team Members

How to access and order School Uplift materials

Online access to binder materials

To download and print copies of the binder materials, visit EnergyRight.com/school-uplift-resources.

How to order posters and clings

To order additional School Uplift posters and clings, contact your Energy Coach or your LPC representative.

Posters and clings

Help spread the word about your school's participation in School Uplift. Use the provided Tips & Tricks posters and clings around your school to remind students of easy energy-saving behaviors that they can practice each day!

Posters

The posters are modular, so use them individually, in pairs or grouped all together. Place them in high-traffic areas like hallways or the cafeteria. Or hang them up on classroom walls and bulletin boards. If you spread them around the school, challenge students to find them all!

Clings

Use the clings (they won't damage paint!) on hard, flat surfaces like walls, cubbies, desks, doors and bathroom mirrors, or near light switches, water fountains and sinks — anywhere students can see them!

How to access your posters and clings

Need more posters and clings? You can order additional copies through your Energy Coach or local power company.

Monthly Education Resource Guide

Schoolwide engagement in School Uplift is essential to reaching your energy-reduction goal. The more everyone gets involved, the faster you'll get there and the more money your school can save on energy-related costs!

What is the Monthly Education Resource Guide?

This guide is designed to help your school's Energy Team and teachers keep students engaged all school year with activities and resources focused on energy awareness and energy-conscious behaviors. Each month presents a different theme, along with fun and easy activities for students.

Who should use this guide?

This guide is for your Energy Team, teachers and school staff to use in the classroom and beyond. The resources and activities included are easy to implement and can be used in a variety of settings.

We recommend that your school's Energy Champion be responsible for keeping the *Engagement Binder*. This person will also be the primary point of contact for any questions! The Energy Champion can inform all relevant teachers and staff each month of the new activities, how to adopt them in the classroom and where to access additional support materials.

How does the guide work?

Your guide has sections for elementary school, middle school and high school. Each section is broken down by month. Once you've flipped to your grade level and month, check out the month's theme, suggested activities and resources! All activities are optional. At the end of each month's section, you'll find supplemental materials for any activities that require them. You can make copies of those materials, or go to EnergyRight.com/school-uplift-resources to download and print them.