

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty and Staff,

Rowland Hall's participation in the Green Cup Challenge was a great success! From January 26 through February 23 our school joined with more than 150 schools around the country in this 4th annual student-oriented, inter-school energy competition that supports and promotes efforts to conserve energy. We came in third of the 45 schools in the northern region and first in Utah!
During this time Rowland Hall reduced it's electrical consumption by 20%.

But, our success in the contest is not what is most important to us. What is truly gratifying is that our students, across all grade levels, embraced this learning opportunity and had fun with it! From our kindergarten students - who designed Green Cup badges to wear as a reminder about the competition and using natural light - to our high school students - who toyed with the idea of no lights at all, before engaging in more realistic behavior - everyone conserved electricity by:

Turning off lights whenever natural light was sufficient.

Turning off computers at night

Turning off surge protectors each night (most electronic equipment, particularly televisions and computers, that have been shut down still draw electricity - called "ghost loading" - if the surge protectors are still on.)

Using the computer power cord only when the battery was nearing depletion. (This also maximizes the efficiency of computers.)

The Green Cup challenge is a natural progression of Rowland Hall's sustainability initiatives. Our ultimate goal was to help our school community change wasteful habits and create new, lasting ways to be more careful consumers of electricity in our homes and offices. Participating in the Green Cup Challenge has given us a unified, hands-on learning experience, as well as a platform for discussing local and global issues of environmental stewardship. Any competition will get students and faculty excited and we turned a few lights off at times that probably would have been best left on. But, our hope now that the competition is over is that we can think about responsible use of our resources not only at school but in our lives.

Our goal is to remain cognizant of our electrical usage and be responsible about the use of our resources. If you have any questions about the Green Cup Challenge, please feel free to call either of us. (801-355-7485)

Sincerely,

Alan Sparrow, Head of School
Mary Jacquin, Sustainability Consultant

P.S. We saved \$1300 in February over the previous year. Our hope is that realistically we might save \$1000 a month over what we spent in the past. As well as a learning experience, we hope this will continue to be a cost savings for the school. We think this is particularly relevant in the current economic environment as we seek to reduce costs without impacting educational quality.