

Section 12.1: K-12 Education

Topic/Issue Description

Improving the “energy IQ” of school-aged children is an essential component of a statewide effort to promote energy conservation. The 2002 national Roper Starch study also found that older Americans are more likely to know more about energy conservation practices than younger Americans, pointing to a need to better educate school-aged children.¹

Increasing efforts to provide energy education to school-aged students will help Kansas move toward a citizenry that is well educated about energy and energy conservation and therefore more likely to engage in energy conservation in their homes, work places, and in the transportation choices they make.

Existing Policies and Programs

1. The U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy hosts an Energy Education web site that provides lesson plans and activities for K-12 teachers and students.
2. The U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration sponsors a web-based resource—Energy Education Resources: Kindergarten through 12th Grade. Content covers a wide range of energy and environmental categories.
3. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), through its Building Technologies Program, funds several initiatives to advance research and development of energy efficient buildings, improve building codes and appliance standards, and promote education.
4. The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE), is a private, non-profit association that has been working with teachers and school districts since 1969 to promote and provide “effective, non-biased and science-based” conservation and environmental education, including energy education.
5. The Kansas Corporation Commission’s Energy Programs Division, in consultation with representatives from the state’s electric and natural gas utilities is developing a statewide energy conservation education program.

¹ The Roper Starch survey also reports that 90% of the adults surveyed support energy and energy conservation education being taught in schools.