

Energy Matters sparks excitement at the state capitol

Governor Inslee invites students to STEM Education Innovation Alliance



Mackenzie Johnson, 8th-grader at Evergreen Middle School, shares her presentation on energy

OLYMPIA—Gov. Inslee invited Everett Public Schools students to present to the Governor's STEM Education Innovation Alliance at its quarterly meeting Feb. 14, which focused on science, climate and the environment, featured eight K-12 programs from across Washington state. Gov. Inslee selected these programs to present best practice examples of student learning experiences to the Alliance.

Evergreen Middle School 8th-grader Mackenzie Johnson and 9th-grader Ali Al-Ghanim of Cascade High School presented to the Alliance. They shared Evergreen Middle School's Energy Matters program, the only middle school presentation at the event.

Energy Matters is a project-based learning experience that allows students to connect the concepts they learn in the classroom to real-life scenarios. For example, by students learning to

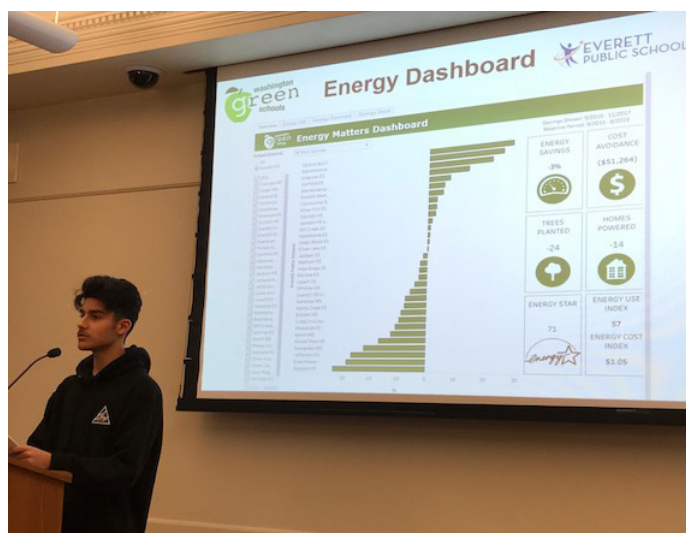
read an electricity bill, they launched a schoolwide campaign to reduce energy consumption based on what they learned about energy use in the school.

Evergreen Middle School teachers and district STEM staff developed Energy Matters and its success inspired staff to expand the program districtwide.

Students explained the Energy Matters program, including the projects they designed, the alignment to the Next Generation Science Standards, and the program partnerships with Washington Green Schools and Fluke Corp. Evergreen teacher Craig Marais and Executive Director of Washington Green Schools Meredith Lohr oversaw the duo's presentation.

"The thing I love about this program is it connects industry, energy conservation, careers, and is laying the groundwork for students having access

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Ali Al Ghanim, 9th-grader at Cascade High School sharing the Energy Dashboard segment

to cutting edge jobs in the energy sector, and being leaders,” shared Marais. “They already have the concept of it. I love to see the distance decrease between what they’re learning in school and what they will see in their careers.”

Mackenzie is halfway through the year-long 8th-grade Energy Matters curriculum, and shared, “Energy Matters has been interesting because [she’s] been learning about how energy and gases are contributing to global warming, and learning why people say it’s fake, but also learning about how it really works.”

“For me, it was incredibly rewarding to see our two students, Ali and Mackenzie, shine as they delivered their presentation to educational leaders, industry representatives, and nonprofits,” said Marais.

After their presentation, the students toured the state capitol and sat in on the State Senate in session. This was especially memorable for Al Ghanim, who said, “Every day the state is shaping into something different, along with the country. Seeing it happen in person was eye opening.”

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