



National
Energy
Foundation

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ELEVATE

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

 Mount Timpanogos
Utah, USA

PHOTO CREDIT
Everett Marston
NEF Video and Comms. Specialist

We are **elevating** the standards for energy education. From workforce development to efficiency, transportation and safety education, NEF is the leader in preparing students, our future voters, energy workforce and rate payers, for the energy transition.

We are **innovating** the way we engage with students, teachers and families. In the past four decades, NEF has weathered drastic changes in how students learn. From a chalkboard to a smartboard and a textbook to a tablet, NEF has developed innovative programs to meet our students where they are and keep them engaged.



551,916

Total Student
Participants*



98.34%

Teacher Approval
Rating*



21,129

Total Teacher
Participants*

**Fiscal Year 2022-2023*

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENERGY FOUNDATION

The National Energy Foundation (NEF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating and promoting an energy literate society. Our award winning, STEM-based programs educate students from K-Gray on energy efficiency, safety, water, natural resources, conservation, electric vehicles (EVs) and more.

NEF's school to home approach has proven to be an effective way to educate individuals, families and communities on energy. Since 1976, energy professionals and educators nationwide have depended on NEF for experience and expertise in energy literacy.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT **NEF1.ORG**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While our mission to cultivate and promote energy literacy is at the forefront of everything we do, this year we have focused on reaching new heights while elevating and innovating energy literacy. What does this mean? It means we're challenging the status quo. It means we're staying one step ahead, delivering energy education, supporting our sponsors, teachers, students and communities. It means we're developing new and better ways to educate energy consumers for future generations. For the past four decades, the National Energy Foundation (NEF) has done just that: elevate and innovate, and this report is a testament to those efforts. I invite you to continue reading this report to learn more about NEF and discover why we are the leader in energy education.

EFFICIENCY

Our Think! Energy curriculum tells a story while educating students on energy efficiency concepts as students progress in their academic careers. Students in Think! Energy programs learn essential energy concepts like efficiency, electricity and circuits. This information lays the foundation for our secondary program, Innovation, which develops energy understanding and critical thinking skills for our future voters, energy consumers and workforce.

"The presenters were fabulous! They were so engaging and insightful. This is such a great program to get kids thinking about the future and how each person can make such a big difference."

Consumers Energy Teacher,
Think! Energy Program

ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EVs)

As technology remains a driving force in today's world, NEF is accelerating our EV education with rEV. This program helps students to understand electric transportation and explore the complexity of the energy transition. As one participating rEV student said, "I am super excited to witness the amazing future of these electric cars! I can't wait to learn more!" That is the kind of enthusiasm that fuels NEF's future and has led to the creation of rEV 2.0, an electrifying program addition that focuses on careers in energy and workforce development. Exciting updates are coming soon!

SAFETY

Energy Safe Kids is a suite of NEF energy safety programs designed to focus on specific areas of energy safety. From in class engaging presentations to a robust teacher directed fulfillment program, students and teachers learn how to be safe with natural gas and electricity. NEF is grateful for our partners who ensure students and their families learn about energy safety in and outside the home.

As I conclude this message, I want to thank the driving force behind our organization: **our employees**. The NEF staff who create and deliver energy education with our partners is unparalleled. The highest quality people work together to elevate and innovate energy education in communities nationwide. To our sponsors, thank you for your continued support and dedication to NEF.

Elissa Richards

President & CEO
National Energy Foundation



National
Energy
Foundation

AMEREN ILLINOIS

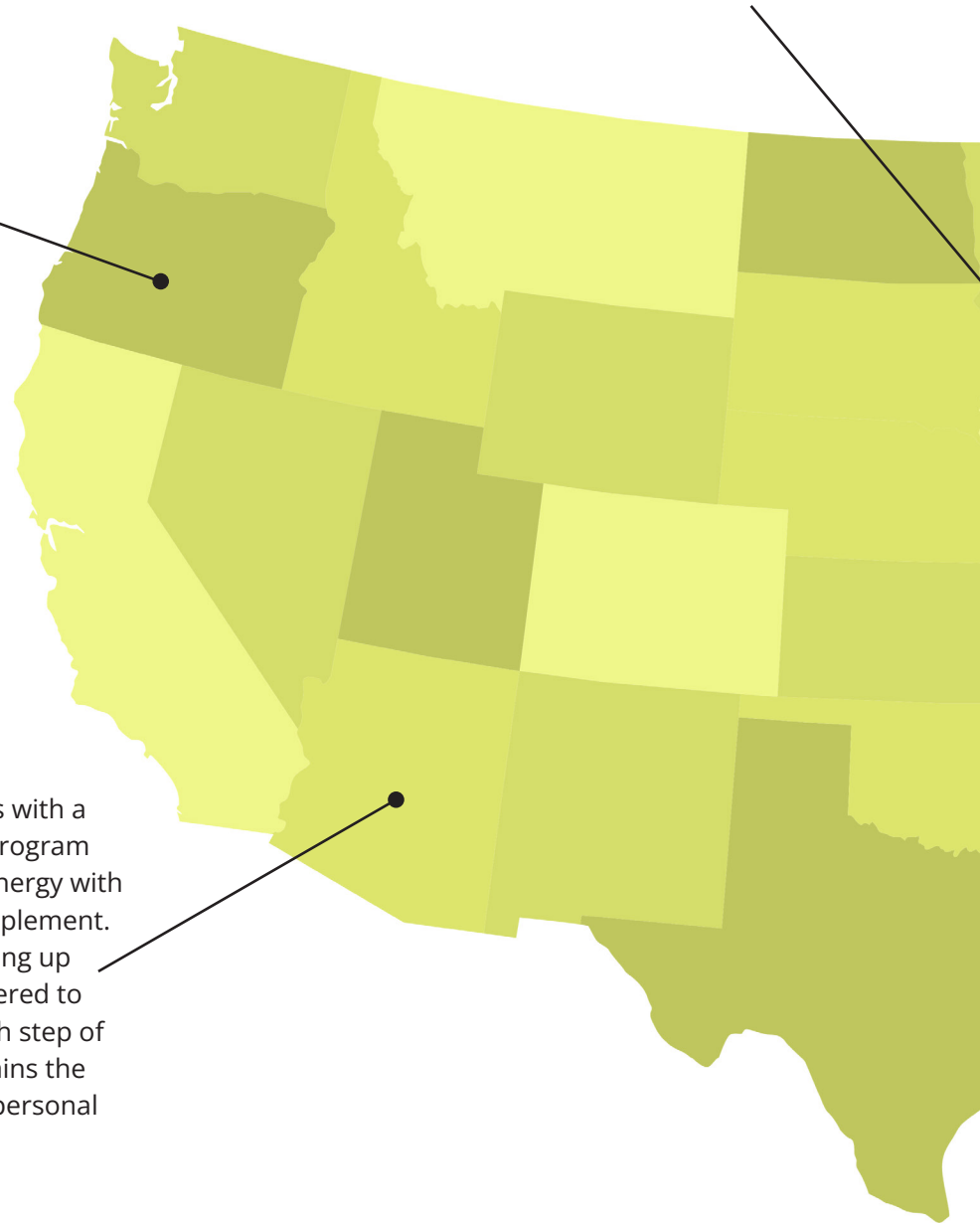
The award winning Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Internship Program has connected individuals to energy efficiency summer internship programs since 2018. Interns participate in hands-on training and industry-related education, receive mentorship from industry professionals and gain skills that will help them secure a full-time position in the energy efficiency sector.

PACIFIC POWER

The rEV program expanded into the Northwest with Pacific Power this year, reaching 5,000 high school and middle school students in Oregon and Washington. Nearly 20% of these students had a visit from an NEF energy educator, followed by an EV visit to the school. The remaining students participated in a robust online program delivered by the teacher. All participants learned about the benefits and challenges of EVs and received take-home materials to share with their families.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW MEXICO

PNM Innovation reaches secondary students with a custom approach to energy efficiency. The program focuses on reducing plug load and wasted energy with strategies high school students can easily implement. From getting ready in the morning to wrapping up homework at night, students will be empowered to implement the best energy practices for each step of their day using their *Innovation Kit* that contains the efficient measures they need to make their personal space highly efficient.



NEF NATION

CONSUMERS ENERGY AND DTE ENERGY

Senior citizens carry a higher energy burden than the average customer due to fixed incomes and older homes that tend to be inefficient. Thanks to DTE Energy and Consumers Energy, the Think! Energy program expanded to target seniors and directly impact their energy savings. Energy educators presented at senior care centers on ways seniors can save energy. The program provided 856 kits consisting of numerous efficient measures, including pipe wrap, window insulation kits, light bulbs, faucet aerators and door weather-stripping to seniors. Based on great receptivity, the program expanded In 2023 to serve over 1,000 households in the Consumers and DTE territories.



EVERSOURCE GAS AND ELECTRIC

Since 2021, Eversource has trusted NEF's educational integrity and expertise to effectively deliver engaging safety education to classrooms across Massachusetts and Connecticut. The Academy of Natural Gas Safety Education Program empowers students, teachers and families with the knowledge to act safely and responsibly around natural gas facilities and equipment both inside and outside the home. NEF's 2024 expansion to include the Academy of Electric Safety Education Program will assist Eversource in reaching more than 103,000 students annually across their entire New England territory.

ARKANSAS ENERGY OFFICE

The Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment sponsored free teacher workshops focusing on energy efficiency, renewable energy and alternative fuels at four locations throughout the state in May. Each of the 109 teachers earned two credit hours of professional development, an educational grant for lesson materials or classroom expenses, received access to many online supplemental lessons targeting fourth through seventh grades and participated in hands-on, STEM-centered activities to apply within the classroom. Teachers partnered together, applying the Next Generation Science Standards in disciplinary core ideas through scientific and engineering practices with crosscutting concepts by creating a circuit with salt dough, separating water molecules, "driving" alternative-fueled vehicles and consuming resources, while also playing a game of energy BINGO.

N

small actions. **BIG IMPACT.**



BRINGING LIGHT TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

In 2022, a new community-based engagement initiative was introduced to the Ameren Illinois program that reached over 2,500 additional community members. Sparrow Energy Services implements the Community in Action (CIA) and Innovation Camp (IC), which create meaningful and strategic opportunities for community engagement in underserved communities. CIA events are designed to promote energy efficiency awareness, workforce development resources and a smart LED giveaway. The Innovation Camp is an interactive multiday program that focuses on energy education, workforce development and energy industry networking.



ARKANSAS ENERGY OFFICE **STATEWIDE INITIATIVES**

NEF partnered with the Arkansas Energy Office, an entity of the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, to bring teachers a free Think! Energy efficiency professional development program in May 2023. The two hour workshops were held in person and in school districts statewide to promote program participation and accessibility. More than 100 teachers engaged in hands-on lessons and activities covering topics in energy efficiency, renewable energy and alternative fuels. Teachers also received various STEM-based energy lesson plans and experiments to use in their classrooms. To thank them for their participation, educators earned professional development credits, plus educational grants to support the cost of materials for the provided lessons.

"It was a really fantastic training. I loved it being hands on. It was paced well. It wasn't an overwhelming amount of information. It did a good job of showing how to build activities related to energy into the classroom for students. It did a good job of showing a range of really simple activities (Pass the Sack) to more complex activities (Electrolysis of Water). But all the activities were accessible and could easily be done in the classroom."

*Teacher (Fourth to Sixth Grade),
Little Rock School District*

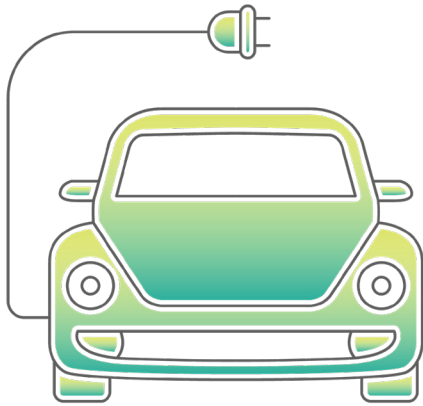


109
Teacher Participants



+\$12,000
Teacher Materials Donated

REVVING UP OUR EDUCATION



What is rEV? Featuring a Telly award winning, choose-your-adventure interactive experience, this elevated, electrifying and engaging experience targets middle and high school students. Developed by NEF with consultation from energy and electric transportation industry experts, rEV is designed to prepare the younger generation for the adoption of EVs. From demonstrating the societal and technological benefits of electric transportation to explaining the important impact carbon free vehicles have on the environment and economy, rEV was built to drive a green future.

6,523
Total Student
Participants in rEV*

49
Total Schools
Participating in rEV*

**Fiscal Year 2022-2023*



rEV 2.0

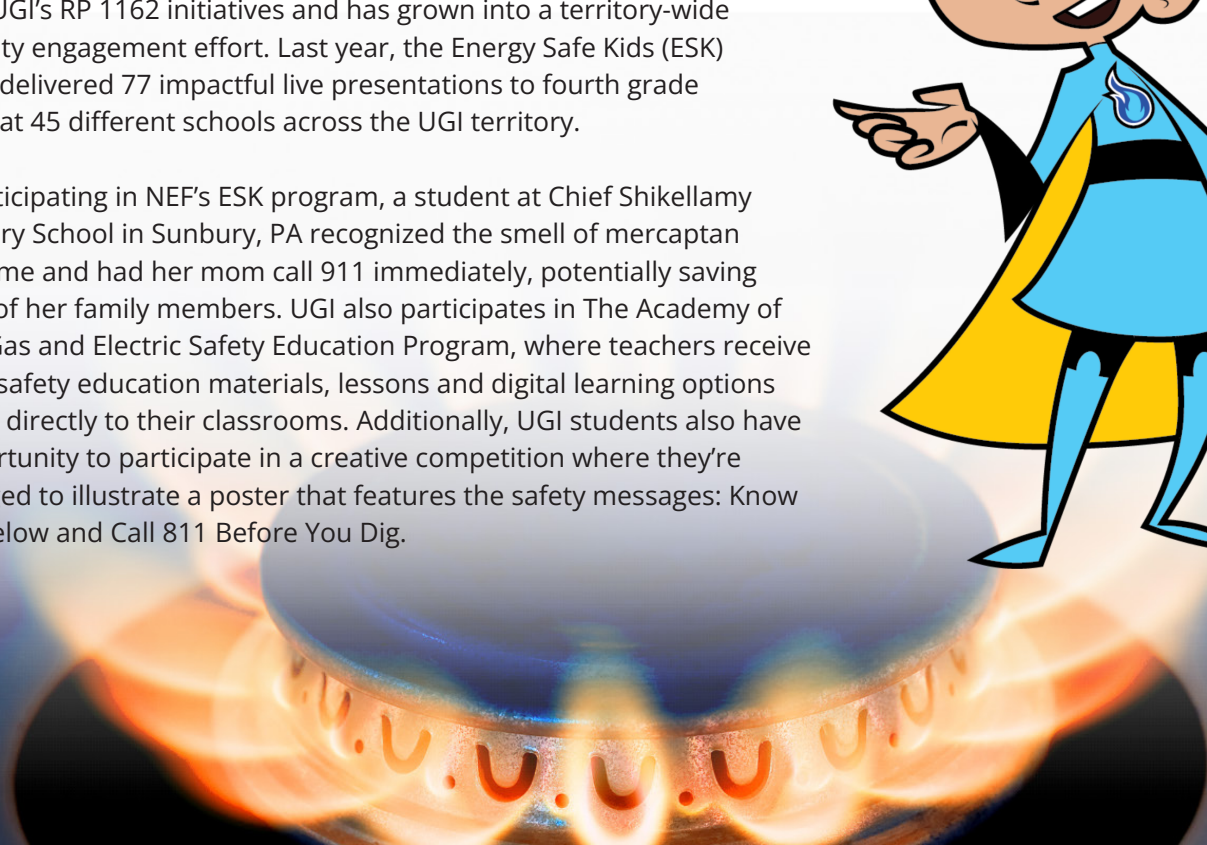
NEF is rEVving up our workforce development initiatives. In recent years, utilities have experienced an additional need for new talent as innovative electric technology, like EVs, hit the market. NEF has recognized this need and developed an elevated rEV program to inspire and educate students on career opportunities in the electric transportation, manufacturing and energy industries. Whether a student is passionate about accounting and finance or skilled in system design and engineering, anyone can have an electric transportation career.

LIFE SAVING EDUCATION

Student Recognizes Natural Gas Leak in Home After Completing NEF Safety Program

For more than 20 years, UGI and NEF have partnered to encourage students, families and teachers to Think!, Talk! and Take Action! with their energy safety habits. This collaborative partnership began as a way to support UGI's RP 1162 initiatives and has grown into a territory-wide community engagement effort. Last year, the Energy Safe Kids (ESK) program delivered 77 impactful live presentations to fourth grade students at 45 different schools across the UGI territory.

After participating in NEF's ESK program, a student at Chief Shikellamy Elementary School in Sunbury, PA recognized the smell of mercaptan in her home and had her mom call 911 immediately, potentially saving the lives of her family members. UGI also participates in The Academy of Natural Gas and Electric Safety Education Program, where teachers receive dynamic safety education materials, lessons and digital learning options delivered directly to their classrooms. Additionally, UGI students also have the opportunity to participate in a creative competition where they're encouraged to illustrate a poster that features the safety messages: Know What's Below and Call 811 Before You Dig.



PROGRAMS THAT DRIVE RESULTS THINK! ENERGY AT A GLANCE



69,246
Megawatt-hours
(MWh) Saved*



479,411
Thousand Cubic Feet
(MCF) Saved*



273,098
Energy Efficiency
Kits Distributed*



2,788
Energy Efficiency
Presentations*



BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

The energy landscape is complex and constantly changing, and in today's world, there is no shortage of information, news or content at our fingertips. The mission of the National Energy Foundation is to help sponsors, teachers, students, and communities rise above the distractions and to elevate energy literacy and innovation nationwide. In the spirit of raising the bar for the many and diverse voices of the energy industry, I am proud to present NEF's annual report, which is appropriately themed "Elevate."

For the past four decades, the National Energy Foundation has touched the lives of millions through its programs and educational partnerships. However, NEF's work is not done. As the energy industry evolves, so will the organization. As we turn our attention to the future, new challenges will arise. Global leaders, educators, and businesses continue to work to help solve the nation's energy and environmental challenges and engage a new generation in a digital age. The passion-driven leadership team and staff at NEF are at the forefront of these challenges. They are creating engaging and effective programs for natural gas and electric utilities, state energy programs, and other energy industry stakeholders nationwide.

As the Chair of the NEF Board, I am proud of the NEF team and what this organization has delivered to the energy industry over the past year. This report is a testament to the value this organization delivers to its energy industry partners, and more importantly to students, teachers, and families across the U.S. The hard work continues, and the mission to 'elevate' our constituents will continue into 2024 and beyond. Thank you for your continued support.

Jennifer O'Shea

VP Communications
American Gas Association

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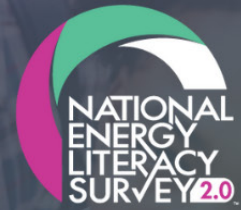
GET SOCIAL WITH US!

LIKE. FOLLOW. SHARE.



SURVEY SAYS:

IT'S TIME TO THINK, TALK AND TAKE ACTION!



In 2017, the National Energy Foundation (NEF) partnered with Cicero Social Impact, a prominent market research firm, to survey a demographically diverse sample of 2,005 high school students across the nation. The survey measured students' attitudes, knowledge, and behavior regarding energy. In 2022, NEF commissioned a second survey with a sample of 1,564 high school seniors nationwide.

The results show that there has been a statistically significant drop in energy literacy among high school students in the United States. Simply put, our future workforce, voters, and energy consumers are not prepared for the energy transition. These results are a wake-up call to utilities, state energy offices, and other energy industry partners that it's time to think, talk and take action!

14.6%
DECLINE

ATTITUDES

Attitudes and perceptions toward energy

6.4%
DECLINE

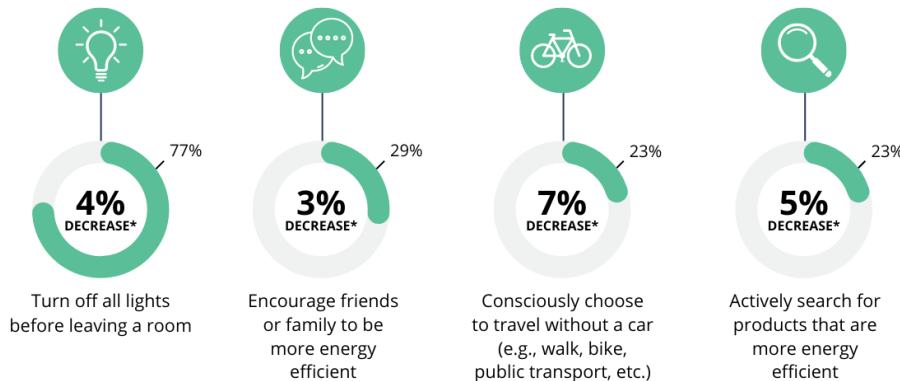
KNOWLEDGE

Understanding of different energy concepts

7.0%
DECLINE

BEHAVIOR

Everyday actions and behaviors concerning energy



WHAT can we DO?

While energy literacy rates have dropped, many students are concerned with energy efficiency, resources, and conservation. The interest is there, but the connection between interest, attitudes, and behavior change is missing. As the energy transition rapidly evolves, it's more important now than ever to continue providing students of all ages and their families with the information they need to prepare for a cleaner energy future.

LET'S PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION, TOGETHER!

The National Energy Foundation is dedicated to cultivating and promoting an energy literate society. Let's work together to improve the attitudes, knowledge, and behavior of our future voters, energy consumers, and workforce. Contact NEF to schedule a time to discuss your energy literacy and community engagement goals.



www.nef1.org/survey

BECOME A PART OF SOMETHING

BIGGER



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Chief Marketing Officer



CHRIS REILLY
Director of Client Solutions



KATIE BARNES
Manager of Client Solutions

At the National Energy Foundation, we're dedicated to cultivating and promoting energy literacy by designing programs that result in powerful and impactful change, as seen in this report.

Join us and become a part of the NEF nation.

nef1.org/contact



Ralph Cleveland
American Association of
Blacks in Energy (AABE)

Special Announcement

AABE and NEF Collaboration

With the addition of Mr. Ralph Cleveland to the NEF board of directors, NEF took the first step in building an official collaboration with the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE). This collaboration will bring critical energy messages into a more comprehensive network of students and communities.

Visit nef1.org to learn more.

Let's Connect!

Want to read more stories like this? Sign up for our quarterly newsletter for exclusive stories, program and sponsor highlights, NEF news and more.

VISIT NEF1.ORG.



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