



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny Energy recognizes environmental activities at local schools

Monroeville, Pa., May 7, 2001 – Allegheny Energy, Inc. (NYSE: AYE), in accordance with its environmental stewardship philosophy, recognized three schools in Harrison County, W.Va., with Environmental Stewardship School Awards during Earth Week. The Company's Harrison/Rivesville Power Stations presented the awards based on each school's commitment to environmental stewardship activities that protect and enhance the local community.

The awards were presented to Simpson Elementary School, Salem Middle School, and Liberty High School. Each school received a plaque and a \$100 check during the opening ceremony of Harrison County's Earth Week Celebration.

"Allegheny Energy and its employees are committed to protecting the environment, and we think it is important to recognize the young people in our area who share in that commitment," said George Dragich, Regional Director for Allegheny Energy Supply's Harrison/Rivesville Region. "Everyone in the community has to work together to make a difference."

The winner in the elementary school division, Simpson Elementary School, participates in an extensive can-recycling program, coordinated by Carole Kinard. The school has recycled over 46,000 pounds of aluminum since they began the program in 1986. Numerous local businesses are involved as partners, and proceeds from the recycling program benefit various school and community projects.

Salem Middle School, the winner of the middle school division, conducted a tire collection project that accumulated almost 300 tires. The activity supplements their other outdoor environmental projects that include: planting trees, planting butterfly and hummingbird gardens, maintaining a greenhouse, and participating in a lab that teaches environmental stewardship. Sandra Iaquina is responsible for coordinating Salem Middle School's environmental programs.

Initiating a program to recycle plastic bags from various retail stores and at the school is one of the projects that contributed to Liberty High School winning the high school division of the Environmental Stewardship School Awards. Coordinated by Kimberly Shrader, students led an effort to encourage school-wide recycling of aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and cardboard.

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Students from the school also participated in a number of Earth Week activities, such as creating mall and school displays, producing a school video promoting environmental protection, and conducting environmental poster and tee shirt contests. Students in the Environmental Science class are participants in an “Earth Team” program sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This program focuses on conservation of natural resources and public awareness of environmental issues. The school is also sending a team to the West Virginia Envirothon, a high school competition focusing on environmental concepts and awareness.

“It is amazing how many different activities the students are involved in,” said Dragich. “In the past three years of presenting this award, we have seen recycling programs, school-wide awareness and conservation projects, greenhouse and wetlands projects, and even participation in international study programs. There is no limit to what these students can accomplish, and they should be proud of the positive impact they have left on the environment.”

Allegheny Energy, Inc. is a diversified energy company headquartered in Hagerstown, Md. We have been named to the *Fortune* 500 list, the Standard and Poor's 500 index, and the *Forbes* "Platinum 400" list. The Allegheny Energy family includes *Allegheny Power*, which delivers electric energy and natural gas to about three million people in parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; *Allegheny Energy Supply Company, LLC*, which operates and markets competitive retail and wholesale electric generation and operates regulated electric generation for its affiliates; and *Allegheny Ventures*, which actively invests in and develops telecommunications and energy-related projects. For more information, visit our web site at www.alleghenyenergy.com.