



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Allegheny Energy donates \$1,000 to the Blackshere Elementary School Environmental Classroom**

**Hagerstown, Md., March 7, 2002** – Allegheny Energy, through its Environmental Stewardship Fund, has donated \$1,000 to Blackshere Elementary School in Marion County, W.Va., to help support the school's Environmental Classroom. The donation is part of Allegheny Energy's ongoing commitment to environmental education, leadership, and stewardship for the enhancement of the region and its communities.

"We greatly appreciate Allegheny Energy's support of our environmental classroom," said Richard Pelligrin, Principal, Blackshere Elementary School. "The classroom will build on the natural curiosity of our students and help them learn about their environment and how we as humans affect it."

Throughout the school year, the environmental classroom will serve 533 students from kindergarten through fourth grade. The classroom will have 10 learning stations, including a sky observation area, soil, water, and weather stations, fossil dig area, butterfly and hummingbird garden, arboretum, wetlands, and a greenhouse. Teachers will use each of the stations as part of their overall curriculum.

"Allegheny Energy strongly supports environmental education as a key to preserving our natural resources," said Pamela Pershing, the Company's Advisor, Strategic Environmental Management. "We especially recognize the importance of environmental education for children who will someday become leaders in their communities."

Allegheny Energy is an integrated *Fortune* 500 energy company with a balanced portfolio of businesses, including Allegheny Energy Supply, a national energy merchant which owns and operates electric generating facilities and supplies energy and energy-related commodities in selected domestic retail and wholesale markets; Allegheny Power, which delivers low-cost, reliable electric and natural gas service to about three million people in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia; and a business segment offering fiber-optic and data services, energy procurement and management, and energy services. With headquarters in Hagerstown, Md., Allegheny Energy is included on the Standard and Poor's 500 index, the *Barron's* 500 list, and the *Forbes* "Platinum 400" list of America's best big companies. Information is available at [www.alleghenyenergy.com](http://www.alleghenyenergy.com).