

Benefits of Sustainable Energy in Elementary Schools



A Glimpse into Our Year at Waxhaw Elementary School

By incorporating sustainability principles into a STEM rich curriculum, Waxhaw Elementary has empowered our students to become responsible global citizens who actively contribute to a greener and more resilient world.

Together, we can ignite a passion for learning, foster creativity and inspire the next generation of innovators and problem solvers.



the Essential 11 and Portrait of a Graduate

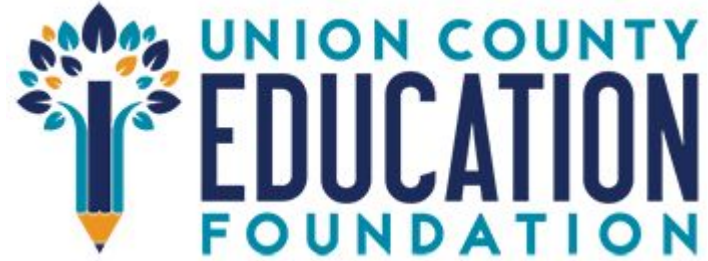
The Sustainable Energy Curriculum takes into consideration the 4 C's of STEM and hands-on, project-based learning.

- **Communication**
- **Collaboration**
- **Critical thinking**
- **Creativity**

These principles are embodied in the Essential 11 and our UCPS Portrait of a Graduate.



As a recipient of the LIFT and GO Grant, we are enriching student lives each day through coding and nature related curricular goals!



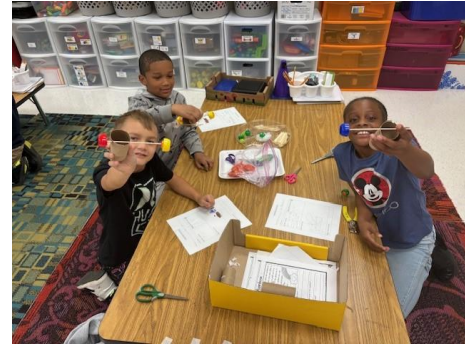
Our mission is to ask students to look at our planet in a different way!



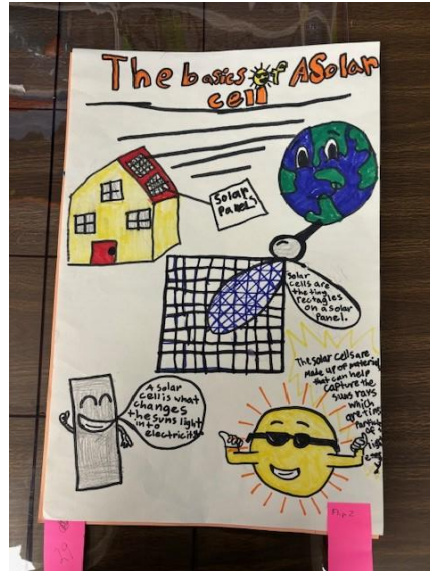
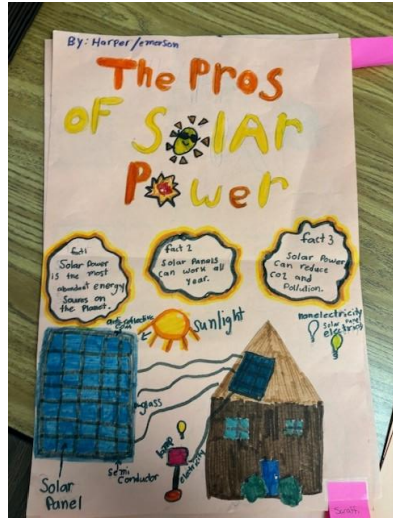
Project-based learning is at the forefront



Renewable Energy
Unit on Wind

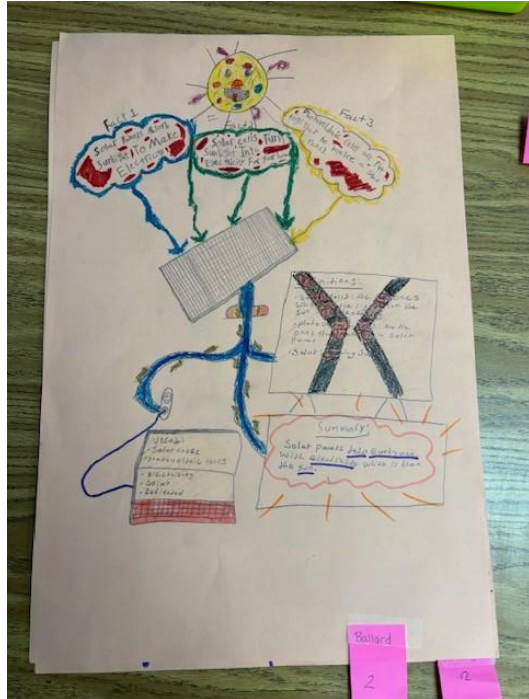


Collaboration with clear objectives

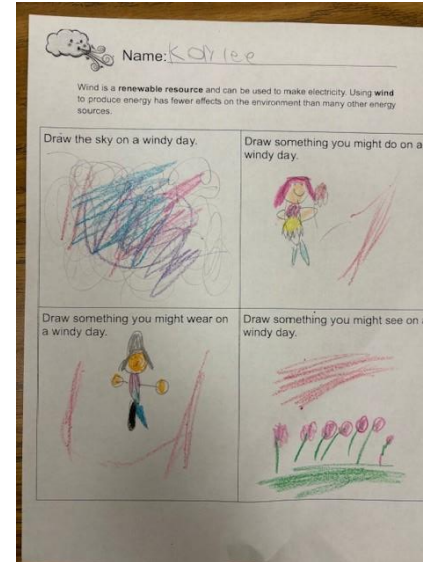


Solar Unit: Poster Contest

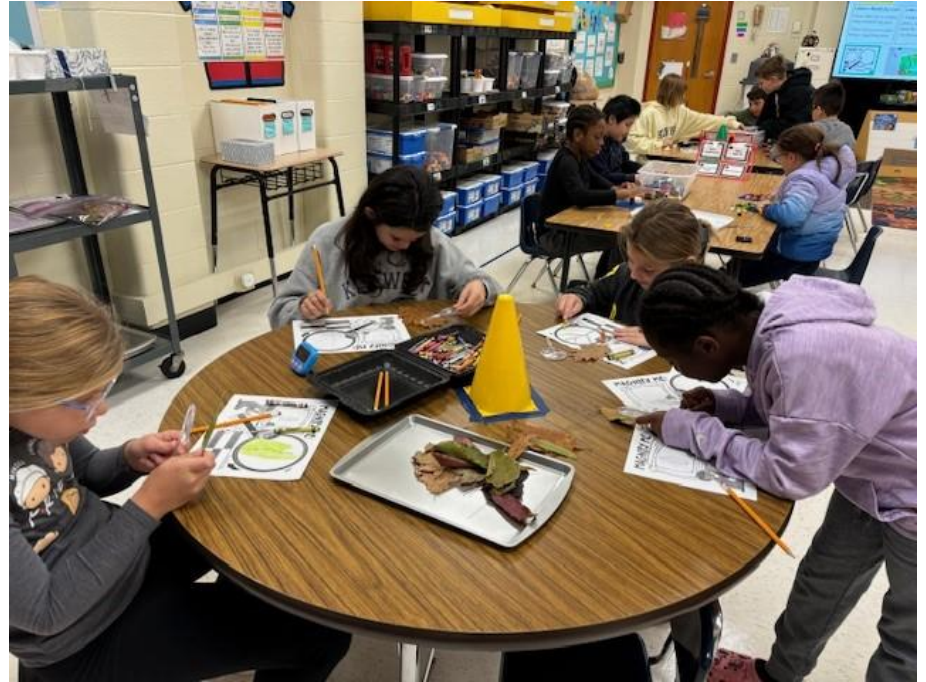
Changing habits and minds one task at a time!



Each lesson focuses on the needs of our planet and also the renewable energy industry.



Through nature, we learn rigorous science standards to help in future careers.



School-Wide Challenges

Data and Facts



Our school wide Water Footprint Challenge showed change is key!

By keeping a log of our daily habits, we are able to create change.

olivia

Water Footprint Detective

Your water footprint tracker is your special tool to discover how we use water every day. On this recorder sheet, you'll jot down things like

- How long you shower or the amount of water used in your bath
- What foods and drinks you enjoy each day
- Any activities that use water, such as washing dishes or watering plants.

It's like your secret mission to track all the ways water is a part of our daily routines!

By keeping this diary for a week, we'll learn together about where our water comes from and how we can use it wisely. Let's become water detectives and uncover how to make smart choices to save water!

Weekly Water Usage	
Monday	washed 1 load of laundry 3 glasses of water
Tuesday	Took a 15 minute shower 2 glasses of milk 1 bottle of water
Wednesday	Brushed teeth for 2 minutes washed hands for 20 seconds Drank a glass of water
Thursday	drank 1 bottle of water Took a 20 minute shower
Friday	Washed my sink for 5 minutes Took a 15 minute shower Drank 2 glasses of water



At the beginning of the challenge...



Only 30% of students at the beginning of the challenge were able to correctly answer the following question:

How much water do you use each day?

- 100 Gallons
- 150 Gallons
- 80 Gallons
- 10 Gallons



At the end of the challenge...



95% of students in grades 3-5 were able to correctly answer the following question:

How much water do you use each day?

- 100 Gallons
- 150 Gallons
- 80 Gallons
- 10 Gallons