



Murray City School District

147 East 5056 South ■ Murray, Utah 84107
(801) 264-7400 ■ Fax (801) 264-7456

MEDIA ALERT

For Immediate Release

D. Wright – Public Information Specialist

E-Mail: dwright@murrayschools.org

CONTACT: Rock Boyer, MSW
Energy Education Manager, Murray City School District
PH 801-264-7424 Ext. 5818; Email rboyer@murrayschools.org

MURRAY SCHOOL DISTRICT ENCOURAGES EARTH DAY PARTICIPATION *Energy saving efforts & school activities highlight conservation awareness*

19 April 2010, Murray, UT – While the world celebrates Earth Day this month, Murray City School District faculty, staff and students continue to participate through an ongoing commitment to a district-wide energy conservation program that has already achieved more than \$740,141 savings through a 22.7% reduction in energy use over 30 months. Since Murray District began the program in August, 2007, energy consumption has been reduced by 34,356 MMBTUs. That reduction translates into the equivalent of 2957 tons of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere, or 531 passenger cars removed from the road, or 75,630 trees planted.

For Earth Day, Murray School District plans to continue its efforts, and invites the public to join in. Rock Boyer, Murray District Energy Education Specialist (EES), says that there are a number of resources available on the Internet that can help individuals learn how to save energy in their own homes, “It’s important for all of us to save energy. While most of the time we discuss it in terms of saving money, for Earth Day we encourage everyone to be concerned with our natural resources and make personal efforts to be good stewards of both our money and our environment.”

The cost of utilities is the second largest budget line-item for Murray District, and the prices for electricity, natural gas, heating oil and water have steadily increased over the past few years. To combat these rising costs, Murray City School District’s energy conservation program, in partnership with Energy Education is projected to save \$3,499,317 through the first ten years of its energy conservation program. That amount is equivalent to 92.1 projected District Annual Teaching Positions Preserved over Ten Years. Through the Program-to-date, the equivalent of 9.7 teaching positions in the District or \$368,314 net Energy Savings has been realized at this point.

OTHER MURRAY SCHOOLS “EARTH WEEK” ACTIVITIES: A new “SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY GARDEN” has been created with involvement of students and teachers from Parkside Elementary School. The SLVHD (Salt Lake Valley Health Department) Environmental Health Division developed the community garden at their Murray location (788 East Woodoak Lane) and have partnered with the Parkside staff and students in a great win-win-win situation. Students and teachers will help with the garden maintenance over the next several months in exchange for using the garden as a hands-on, learning laboratory and a large portion of the resulting harvest in the fall. The project was “unveiled” at an event last week and will be highlighted

Murray City School District
April 20, 2010

during Thursday's Earth Day Fair: April 22, 8 AM- 5 PM at the Environmental Health Facility in Murray (788 East Woodoak Lane, 5380 South). **For more information on this activity, contact Pam Davenport, Communications Manager, Salt Lake Valley Health Department, phone 801-468-2757.**

For more information about Earth Day and educational conservation resources:

www.earthday.org

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/holiday/earthday.cfm>

http://www.educationplanet.com/directory/Science/Environment/Ecology/Earth_Day

For general conservation information:

www.energystar.gov

<http://www.planetpals.com/>

www.michaelbluejay.com/electricity

Under the direction of the Murray Schools Board of Education, the mission of the Murray City School District is to work in partnership with the community in the education of youth in a changing society. Richard R. Tranter is superintendent and chief executive officer of the Murray City School District; Laura Baker is president of the Board of Education.

###