

Introduction

The EnergyRight[®] Solutions for Youth (ERSY) Program was developed specifically as an educational outreach service for educators with lesson plans designed for public, private, STEM and home schools as well as community groups. It aligns with state learning standards for math, science and reading, aiming to help children in third through fifth grades learn about the environment and how to use energy wisely. Third, fourth and fifth grades were chosen because at this age, the child's desire to share school experiences with parents/guardians is high, as is the adult's willingness to participate in their child's education. The child's engagement is also maximized at this age, due in part to limited sports team participation, club participation and involvement in other extracurricular activities that typically occurs in upper grades.

EnergyRight Solutions for Youth lesson plans comply with state learning standards for the seven states served by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for grades three (3), four (4) and five (5). Applicable state learning standards are listed on each lesson plan, along with recommendations for the amount of time to spend covering certain parts of a given lesson, depending on the size of the group. In addition, each lesson plan lists needed materials if the educator elects to engage a group in recommended experiments.

The lesson plans cover three areas—Energy Fundamentals, Forms of Energy and Energy Use & Delivery—and were developed for teachers, parents and group leaders. They were designed to help students gain an age-appropriate, informed view of energy and how to use it wisely in language that is easy to understand. Lesson plans can be “mixed and matched” to meet specific course objectives and can be used multiple times over the course of an entire academic year.
