



## Governor's Energy Office

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **“CHANGE A LIGHT SCHOOL CONTEST” WINNERS RECOGNIZED FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORK**

DENVER– The first Colorado “Change a Light School Contest” winners will be recognized for their leadership in energy efficiency on Thursday, November 1, at the Colorado Environmental Film Festival, in Golden, Colorado. The Governor’s Energy Office, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, the Colorado Environmental Film Festival, the Colorado State Forest Service’s Project Learning Tree program, and the Ricks Center for Gifted Children conducted the school contest to engage children on how the simple act of changing an incandescent light bulb to a compact fluorescent light (CFL) can save energy, money, and reduce pollution.

The four winning schools to be recognized are Fort Lewis Mesa Elementary and Ignacio Elementary from La Plata County; Shadow Ridge Middle School from Thornton; and, The Ricks Center from Denver.

The combined effort between the four schools saved energy consumption, changed behaviors and reduced pollution. The students pledged to change 4,154 incandescent bulbs to CFLs, resulting in energy savings of 1,171,428 Kilowatt hours, saving \$108,942.00 in energy bills and preventing 1,698,986 pounds of greenhouse gases from being emitted into the air.

ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last six to 10 times longer. If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with a CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars.

For more information on the contest and the event, visit <http://www.epa.gov/region8/ee/> or the Colorado Environmental Film Festival: <http://www.ceff.net>

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