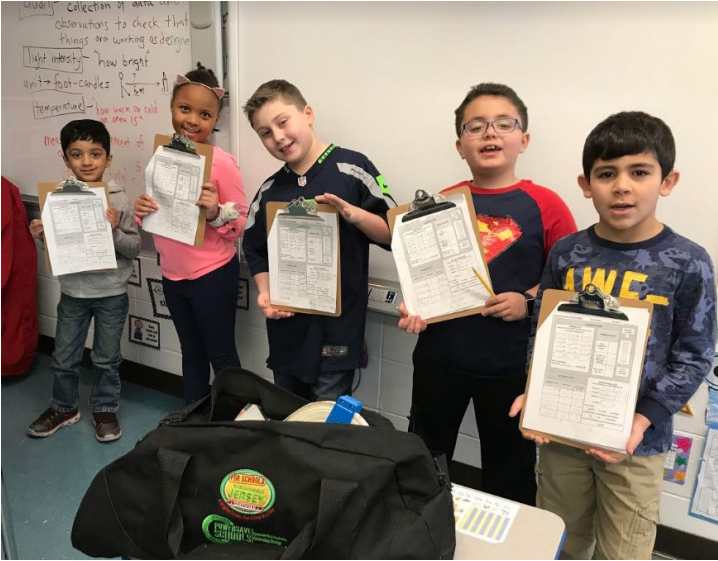


## ENERGY SAVINGS IN ACTION: DECKER STUDENTS ENGAGE IN SCHOOL BUILDING AUDIT



**Energy Auditors in Action:** Edith M Decker students collected light meter and infrared temperature meters and inspected classrooms as part of the Alliance to Save Energy’s emPowered Program. The school has implemented this cost savings program as part of a hands-on pilot study which is currently being piloted nationally in an on-line platform. (Left to Right:) Tanav Darsit Dave, Joella Lee, Cole Connelly, Joshua Osorio, and Angelo Robles.

As part of the Alliance to Save Energy’s “emPowered Save” Program, Decker students learned how to complete an energy audit using equipment and a data analysis sheet. Students monitor the light intensity and complete a comparison using different switch plate configurations. Their information is shared with teachers and staff so that at times they can regulate their lights which leads to a cost savings. They also use an infrared sensor to check room temperature and interview teachers to obtain qualitative data. The audit also includes an inventory of the appliances in the room, some which like SMARTBoards and printers, may draw ‘phantom loads’ if left on all the time.

The students are also trained using resources including educational videos on Energy Demands, Energy Audits, Watts & Water, Energy Renewables, and Green Your Career. The students in turn are responsible for educating staff and parents about the benefits of changing energy consumption habits. The program, which has been implemented over 3 years, has paid off with the Alliance reporting a District savings of \$11,000 annually between 2016-2019.

Second grader Cole Connelly offers this energy saving advice to homeowners regarding how to avoid triggering peaker plant energy costs and paying more for energy. Around 5pm most electricity is being used. In the summer, energy is in demand due to electricity used to power air conditioners. In the winter energy is in demand to power heating sources. Peaker plants are back up power plants (on the energy grid) that help produce energy during peak hours. When energy is in peak demand you pay more for electricity.

Using less electricity later in the evening or early in the morning, before schools and business operate, conserves energy and money. Peaker plants are older facilities that only operate when energy demand is high. The switch over to peaker plants during the course of high energy demands can lead to brown outs if too much energy is in demand. When peaker plants operate consumers pay more per kilowatt-hours. The students recommend you look at your energy bill to analyze your energy consumption patterns.