

The Mayor's Summer Youth Conservation Corps

Coordinated by Houston Department of Health and Human Services
Summer 2008

The Mayor's Summer Youth Conservation Corps, in partnership with Center Point Energy and Houston Works, employed and trained 100 youth to become energy conservation advocates. As energy advocates, they educated residents and distribute approximately 250,000 free Compact Florescent Light (CFL) bulbs. The bulbs were distributed door-to-door to low and middle income neighborhoods throughout Houston. Youth educated residents about energy efficiency and how using CFLs can help reduce their electric bill.

Youth were placed into teams of eight and they were driven to their location of distribution by their adult team leaders. Team leaders supervised youth throughout the day.

Houston Works recruited, interviewed, hired, and trained 100 youth. Youth were trained about job skills, communication, and meaningful employment, their objectives included:

- Personal responsibility
- Workplace specific skills and work ethic
- Positive relationships with adults
- Self confidence and Communication Skills
- Public Service
- Safety

Houston Works also played a major role in managing the program throughout the summer. They provided youth with ongoing guidance and advice about the work environment.

Youth were trained about energy efficiency by Ecos, an environmental consultant for Center Point Energy. Youth used their gained knowledge to educate residents, they stressed that CFLs: use at least 2/3 less energy and produce 70% less heat, last longer than traditional bulbs, can reduce electric bills up to 10%, and how to disposal them safely.

Youth also provided other helpful tips for saving energy. They explained to residents that they should: adjust their air condition thermostat appropriately, seal windows and doors, maintain heating and cooling systems annually, and search for the best deal from electric providers.

The neighborhoods that received energy efficient bulbs were selected according to the parameters set by Center Point Energy and the City. The selected neighborhoods include approximately 62,500 households from all nine City of Houston council districts. This summer project is funded by Center Point Energy.

At the end of the project a party was held to celebrate a job well done. Youth and their adult team leaders celebrated their hard work at Discovery Park. Council members, James Rodriguez and Peter Brown acknowledged everyone involved in the program.

List of Neighborhoods visited by Youth

| <i>Neighborhood</i> | <i>Super Neighborhood #</i> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Greater Hobby | 78 |
| Edgebrook | 79 |
| Meadowbrook/Allendale | 75 |
| Park Place | 74 |
| Golfcrest/Belfort/Reville | 73 |
| Magnolia Park/Manchester | 82 |
| Second Ward | 63 |
| Greater Eastwood/Lawndale | 64 |
| Greater Third Ward | 67 |
| Fourth Ward | 60 |
| Montrose | 24 |
| Greater Fifth Ward | 55 |
| Kashmere Gardens | 52 |
| Trinity-Houston Gardens | 48 |
| Settegast | 50 |
| Heights | 15 |
| Northside/Northline | 45 |
| Acres Homes | 6 |
| Spring Branch North | 84 |
| Spring Branch Central | 85 |
| Eldridge West Oaks | 17 |
| Alief | 25 |
| Sharpstown | 26 |
| Gulfton | 27 |
| Greater Fondren | 36 |
| Westbury | 37 |
| Central Southwest | 40 |
| Sunnyside | 71 |

