

GREEN CUP CHALLENGE BLOOMS

What began four years ago as a small intramural energy-conservation contest between Exeter dormitories this year blossomed into a month-long, interscholastic competition between 15 independent schools in the Northeast.

Known as the Green Cup Challenge, the competition measured and ranked each school's kilowatt usage from January 26 to February 23. Last year Exeter competed against Lawrenceville and Northfield Mt. Hermon; this year, a dozen new participants took up the challenge to combat global warming by making students, faculty and staff aware of their electricity use, and helping them find ways to conserve. The goal was to educate the school communities about the environmental and economic impact of their choices, and to reduce campus emissions of greenhouse gasses. The school that decreased its electricity consumption by the largest percentage during the 30 days was declared the winner.

During the challenge, participating schools developed energy-reduction curriculum; shared student-produced videos; dined by candlelight on Valentine's Day; and attended forums and screened documentaries on global warming, including *An Inconvenient Truth* and *Kilowatt Ours*.

The final results put Exeter in fourth place with a reduction of 8.2 percent, behind Millbrook (16.3 percent), Holderness (15.1 percent) and Darrow (14 percent). In all, more than 12,000 students, faculty, staff and school community members in seven states took part in the challenge, and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 380,000 pounds and saved more than 245,000 kilowatt hours of electrical energy—the equivalent of taking 34 cars off the road for one year.

"The mission of the challenge was for institutions to directly address the issue of global warming," explains Exeter Sustainability Coordinator Jennifer Wilhelm. "It was a good way to have fun and educate everyone involved about the power they have in their choice to

conserve energy. Beyond that, plans are in the works to expand Green Cup and ultimately make this a national event, where hundreds of schools, and their local communities, can participate in the fight to prevent global warming."

Seniors Nicholas Devonshire and Jackson Salovaara are co-heads of Exeter's Environmental Action Committee as well as E-Proctor board members. Both describe a distinct growth in awareness among Exeter's student body. "The true purpose of Green Cup—to show how easy it is to conserve and to get people talking about environmental issues—was more than fulfilled," Salovaara says. "Students would hit light switches, with no more explanation than the phrase, 'Green Cup.' Everyone seemed to understand."

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Adds Devonshire, "Climate change and the energy crisis are among the most important concerns of our generation, and I'm just so glad to see what a receptive community we found for our environmentalism. I think the obvious next step is moving the challenge to college campuses for a new intercollegiate event."

—Famebridge Witherspoon



Now in its fourth year, Exeter's Green Cup Challenge expanded to include 15 independent schools in an interscholastic competition to conserve electricity use.

2007 Green Cup Results

Schools are ranked according to their reduction of electricity use between January 26 and February 23.

1. Millbrook-16.3% decrease
2. Holderness-15.1%
3. Darrow-14.0%
4. Exeter-8.2%
5. Lawrenceville-7.1%
6. Proctor-5.0%
7. Putney-4.4%
8. Andover-3.7%
9. St. George's-2.6%
10. NMH-1.0%
11. Deerfield-0.97%
12. St. Paul's+2.25% increase
13. Choate+2.9%
14. Stoneleigh-Burnham+3.0%
15. Hotchkiss+5.9%