

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Manhattan Beach Unified School District**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Manhattan Beach Unified School District Program Earns Environmental Stewardship Award**

**Manhattan Beach, CA, October 26, 2011**

For saving enough energy in 11 months to effectively plant more than 10,852 trees, Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) will be presented with “The Award for Energy Stewardship” from Energy Education during the November 16th Board Meeting. “The Award for Energy Stewardship” recognizes the District’s efforts to implement an innovative, organizational behavior-based energy conservation and management program. The program is administered through a strategic alliance with Energy Education, a national company whose energy conservation programs have saved more than \$2.5 billion for educational and ministerial organizations since 1986.

The program delivers an environmental benefit from reduced carbon footprint. Energy not used prevents the emission of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. According to EPA/EGrid figures, in the first 15 months of the program, Manhattan Beach Unified School District saved 5,437 MMBTU, the equivalent of 424 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions being prevented, 76 cars removed from the road, or 10,852 pine trees grown for ten years.

“This energy program is an excellent vehicle to assist our personnel in practicing good stewardship of our resources. The willing participation of virtually every staff member — faculty, administrators, office specialists, assistants, food service, maintenance and custodial personnel — adds significantly to our success,” stated Dr. Michael Matthews, Superintendent. MBUSD Energy Education Specialist Ms. Stacia Costa receives intensive training from Energy Education to implement conservation procedures in all of the system’s facilities. She conducts regular energy audits to ensure that students and faculty are comfortable during class times and scheduled activities, and that energy is used only as necessary. Ms. Costa works diligently to motivate everyone in the District to use energy wisely, keep classrooms comfortable, and practice effective energy strategies.

Ms. Costa has worked at every site in MBUSD to implement behavioral and organizational change that has substantially reduced energy consumption without the purchase of new equipment. This program is funded solely by the savings it generates, allowing the District to redirect saved energy dollars to educational priorities.

Board President Bill Fournell noted, “The Board is very pleased with the fiscal savings and reduced environmental impact that have resulted from implementing the steps recommended by Energy Education. Through their consistent practice of reduced energy consumption, MBUSD employees have shown that a few simple steps can make a considerable impact, and they have been positive environmental role models for our students.”

## **About the Manhattan Beach Unified School District**

Manhattan Beach Unified School District ranks as the third highest performing unified school district in the State of California with a 2011 Growth Academic Performance Index (API) of 932. MBUSD serves nearly 7,000 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Mira Costa High School’s API of 911 places it in the top 1.3% of public high schools in California, and it was named number fifteen in ESPN’s “Fab 50” High Schools in the Unified States in 2010 for its superior athletic programs. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with the Manhattan Beach Education and Athletic Foundations, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Northrop Grumman, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at [www.mbusd.org](http://www.mbusd.org).