



SUCCESS STORY

Students Lead Conservation Efforts

Children in China take action to reduce energy use



Photo: Wu Qiubo

Chinese students play a greenhouse gas recognition game to learn about climate change.

The Guangdong Environmental Partnership, supported by USAID, teaches students about no-cost and low-cost ways to save energy. They take the program to their communities.

Students and teachers are helping to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in southern China's Doumen Township, a community benefitting from USAID's Guangdong Environmental Partnership project.

Some 250 teachers and primary school students are documenting energy use in Doumen's Nanmen village and educating Nanmen's 1,500 residents about no-cost and low-cost actions they can take to reduce energy use and save money. Once this model has been fine-tuned, it will be used to engage all 70,000 Doumen Township citizens.

Earlier this year, the Institute for Sustainable Communities and South China Normal University taught the teachers at Nanmen Primary School about climate change and gave them tools to measure energy use and calculate GHG emissions.

The teachers then trained volunteer instructors and fourth- and fifth-grade students how to record the energy use in homes and calculate the corresponding GHG emissions. Students were given calendars and other materials to chronicle their activities and observations.

The Nanmen students were extraordinarily enthusiastic after learning about climate change and have been instrumental in inspiring their families and neighbors to participate in the energy reduction project. Many registered to become "Green Guardians" and get their family involved in a village-wide "Energy-Efficiency Star" competition.

The Guangdong Environmental Partnership will also organize a series of public activities to increase awareness about energy issues among community members and help Nanmen Primary School integrate energy efficiency into its curriculum and extracurricular activities.

These activities will help students and residents decrease energy use by as much as 20 percent in their homes through simple, easy-to-adopt lifestyle changes.