

# Learning and Behavior Change in a Girl Scout Program Focused on Energy Conservation: Saving Energy to ‘Save The Planet’

Gillian Puttick, Kim Kies, Cecilia Garibay and Debra Bernstein

— *The Journal of Sustainability Education*, January 2015: Energy Education

**Abstract:** This study presents outcomes from the *Girls Energy Conservation Corps*, a research and development project that produced a series of six patch activity guides for girls age 8-14 who are members of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts. The program focused on integrating engaging online and real world activities that involved girls in learning about climate change and their role in it, in saving energy, understanding the importance of collective goals and action to address climate change, and using new media creatively to educate peers and the community about energy conservation. Positive changes in knowledge, behavior, and attitudes pre to post suggest that a carefully designed program can address the challenges of educating children about energy conservation and climate change at this age, even if participant exposure to the program is brief. Findings also bring to light that developmental differences may be important to deconstruct in future studies when applying adult-tested behavior change models and theories to youth.

[Download article PDF.](#)

