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‘Greenovation’ Focuses Students on Sustainability and Science

Lutron® Electronics Co.’s project combines energy efficient lighting with an online integrated curriculum to inspire students to action

Coopersburg, Pa. (Jan. 22, 2009) –Lutron Electronics Co. is helping schools take steps toward sustainability and driving energy conservation initiatives in communities while teaching students with real-world data, through its Greenovation (www.greenovationnation.com) program. Greenovation features an energy efficient upgrade to classroom, hallway, or gymnasium lighting integrated with supplemental online science and math lessons, a social networking site for project-based learning, and community outreach programs. Used together, the program helps students learn science while inspiring them to action.

The program starts with the installation of energy-efficient lighting technologies from Lutron’s Balance LC™ line of products, along with a data box that reads energy usage in real time and communicates that information back to the Greenovation website where it is made available to participating teachers. The lighting systems include sensors that automatically adjust lighting brightness based on available daylight, ensuring that lights draw only the power that is needed to supply appropriate light levels. Additional sensors detect when classrooms or hallways are occupied and turn the lights on or off as appropriate. Teachers have the ability to control classroom lighting, while schools can adjust lighting in gymnasiums for particular events. The lighting systems can cut a building’s lighting energy use up to 60 percent.

With Greenovation, classrooms become living laboratories as educators use the Greenovation supplemental curriculum to tie their energy usage to scientific concepts.

(more)

Lutron Launches Greenovation

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Lessons are correlated to multiple states' standards to ensure lessons meet overall science objectives.

Using Greenovation, students will learn about their carbon footprint and sustainability as they cover such topics as energy, conserving energy, sunlight, light & color, electricity, creating light, lighting systems, and waveforms. Each lesson includes a flash-based, narrated online presentation that introduces the topic, a downloadable, customizable PowerPoint presentation, lesson plans, out of classroom activities for students, and more.

The other components of Greenovation include a secure, online social network that allows teachers and students to collaborate on green efforts and to create comparative projects with other Greenovation classrooms. The Community Outreach area will offer project ideas and tools to build community awareness for sustainability and energy efficiency.

“Lutron has a long history of helping companies and schools save on energy bills through our lighting systems, but the technology behind those systems often goes unnoticed by students. By drawing attention to a classroom’s energy usage and by highlighting the ways in which daylight, weather, and activities in the classroom affect that usage, we can deliver an extremely powerful message,” said Steve Beede, Market Development Manager for Lutron Electronics Co. “This generation of students will be the one that feels our energy usage pain as a country and this generation will also be the one to change how we use energy and acquire energy in the future. Greenovation is designed to help spark that interest in students while saving schools money on energy bills.”

About Lutron Electronics Co.

Lutron Electronics Co., Inc. (www.lutron.com), based in Coopersburg, PA, is the world leader in the design and manufacture of lighting control products. Lutron also designs and manufactures automated window treatments for residential and commercial applications. Since 1961, Lutron has delivered industry-leading technology that saves energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

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