

GLS Office News

GLS Job Postings

- Inspector

For more information please contact our Human Resource Department 614.861.7992 or email: palmorel@groundlevelsolutions.org

GLS Mission

To foster the wise and prudent use of available energy resources through the planning, design, implementation, and operation of energy and affordable housing initiatives focusing on the needs of moderate and low-income individuals and families.

Employee Vision

To Maintain excellence and professionalism in our work. We pledge to do our best everyday for the benefit of all. We acknowledge the contributions of our co-workers and support each other in our daily effort to fulfill our duties.

Ground Level Solutions, Inc.

GLS Explores Partnership Opportunities with the Ohio Energy Project

by Stjepan Vlahovich

What do a program that uses bicycle-power as a teaching tool and Ground Level Solutions have in common? As it turns out, quite a lot.

The Ohio Energy Project (OEP) is a program whose mission is to “facilitate students’ and teachers’ understanding of the science of energy and its efficient use....” The staff of OEP turns those dry words into exciting action with the various programs it offers for Ohio teachers and students.

One foundation of OEP’s work is to provide support for teachers through lesson plans and associated resources in science and mathematics. All of these plans and materials are tailored to meet Ohio’s content standards.

OEP also offers professional development programs for teachers. An especially popular offering provides tours of sites in Ohio where energy is produced or energy research conducted. In addition, OEP offers customized energy workshops on a variety of topics and for a variety of grade levels.

As popular as OEP’s teacher support is, student engagement in the science of energy is where the OEP really shines. OEP’s core philosophy incorporates the concept of kids teaching kids. To put that into practice, OEP sponsors workshops where high school students are taught the science of energy and also learn fun, hands-on activities that illustrate the science. In turn, these student leaders teach these concepts and activities to elementary school students.

The excitement and energy at the fairs and workshops where this happens are amazing to experience. They feature a variety of activities and games designed to engage everyone, especially hands-on learners. One of the most popular is the Energy Bike. The bike has a generator and other attachments that allow the rider to experience how much of their own energy it takes to power light bulbs and small appliances.

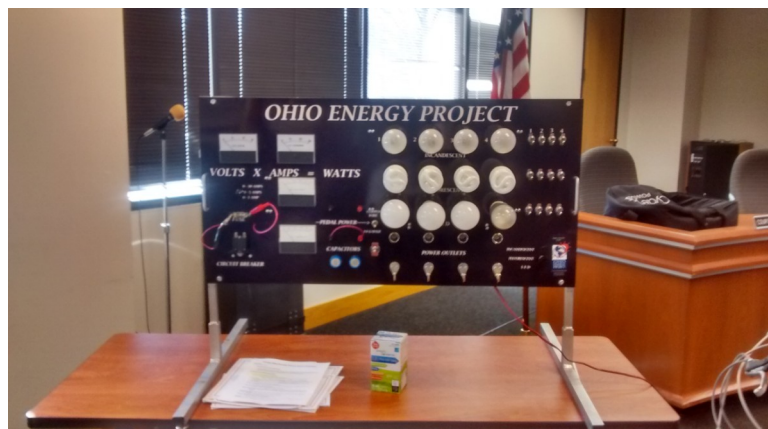
OEP's teaching also focuses on energy efficiency, which is where the work GLS does aligns most with OEP's. One of its programs provides a kit for each student to take home. Every kit includes energy saving items such as low-flow shower heads and compact fluorescent light bulbs. These popular kits help thousands of Ohio students bring home and apply what they have learned about energy and its efficient use.

OEP is a non-profit whose work is funded primarily by utility companies and government. American Electric Power, Columbia Gas of Ohio, and the Ohio Development Services Agency, important funders of GLS, also provide core support for the OEP.

Going forward, the OEP and GLS will be exploring ways they can support each other, especially in cross-marketing. We have many customers in common. I will continue to serve on the OEP Board of Directors, which I have done for many years.

If you are interested in experiencing an OEP workshop, let me know. Angela Hampton can testify to how energizing they are. If you have kids in your family, encourage their school to become active in OEP. They work throughout the state. There is no cost to the school or teachers, and the rewards have been demonstrated throughout the OEP's decades of work.

For more details about the OEP's programs and services, check out their website, www.ohioenergy.org.



WarmChoice® IMS Update

by Stjepan Vlahovich



As most of you are aware, Columbia Gas of Ohio and its partner providers are in the first stages of developing a uniform Information Management System for the WarmChoice® Program. Until now, each of the four providers has used its own system, many of which were developed using operating systems that are no longer available or supported.

The first step in the IMS development process was the selection of a developer for the system. EnergySavvy, a Seattle-based company that develops software for managing and evaluating energy programs, was selected for the first phase.

Because the providers each developed their own systems within the WarmChoice® program's guidelines, the first step was to map the processes for each of them. For the past few months EnergySavvy has been working on that process-mapping task. Since the conclusion of that task, EnergySavvy has been working to develop the process map for a single system. It is this process that will become the basis for the next phase of the project, development of the new Information Management System itself. All of the work is being done in close collaboration with Columbia and WarmChoice® provider staff.

The new system will automate many functions that have been completed manually up until now. This will include inspections. These changes will be designed to reduce the amount of paper generated by the program and to decrease the amount of data entry currently being done.

For example, the new system should combine the current GLS WarmChoice® system with aspects of our Potential and In-Progress databases, eliminating the need for multiple systems to track and manage jobs. Controlled access to the new system will allow providers and partner agencies real-time information about the status of jobs. The system will be cloud-based and include ongoing maintenance and support.

Development of the WarmChoice® single process is on schedule for completion by the end of June. After that, a contract will be awarded for development of the IMS system itself. Implementation is planned for some time next year.

Personnel Development Department

By: Leslie Palmore

New Associate

Ground Level Solutions has a new associate

Darlene Fandrey joined GLS as our receptionist on April 6th, 2015.

Please take a moment to welcome Darlene to the GLS family!

Process and Procedure Manuals

Ground Level Solution's Human Resources Dept. is in the process of compiling Process and Procedure Manuals for the organization, as well as each department. Once the Manuals are completed- Human Resources will create a library where copies of all of the Process and Procedure Manuals, Company as well as Functional, will be housed. They will be available for each associate to review.

Training and Development

Each associate may receive notifications for various training and development courses from CAREERTRACK, Fred Pryor Seminars, and SkillPath, just to name a few.

If there is a course that you are interested in, please send your supervisor a request to attend. Your supervisor will then submit the request to the HR department for review.



GLS Safety Corner

By: Angel Hampton

Sun & Heat Exposure

It's late spring and summer is right around the corner; with the days getting longer and warmer, many people will be spending more time outside enjoying these beautiful sunny, warm days. Whether you are working in the garden, taking a leisurely stroll in the park, relaxing by the pool or if your job calls for you to be outside in the sun for extensive lengths of time, be mindful and protect yourself against overexposure to the sun which can damage the skin and could cause skin cancer.

Heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat rash are possible when you become overexerted in the heat. Put your health first in order to enjoy the warm weather. Follow these simple tips:

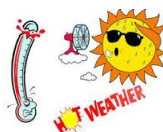


- Wear a wide-brimmed hat to keep your head and face cool. This will also provide added protection from damaging sun exposure. Baseball caps provide little protection except to the face. A hat should protect the neck, face and ears.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt at all times. It should be light colored and loose fitting except when working around machinery.
- Carry a source of water with you. Take drinks frequently—every 15 minutes.



ClipartOf.com/220706

- Take frequent breaks in the shade or in a cool environment during the hottest times of the day. Adjust gradually to working in the heat over a period of 10-20 days.
- Someone suffering from heat exhaustion or heat stroke should be moved to a cool environment, offered sips of water, if conscious, and provided with attention from emergency medical personnel.
- Wear sunscreen that has an SPF of at least 15. Make sure children are also adequately protected.



Information supplied by the National Safety Council's Agricultural Division.

Say Watt?

By: Kiara Richardson

The 2015-2016 Electric Partnership Program year is right around the corner. This year marks the 8th consecutive year of service for Ground Level Solutions. We must be doing something right! We are also excited to continue operating the American Electric Power Community Assistance Program for the 4th year. GLS looks forward to continued success in providing energy saving base load measures through those programs throughout Franklin County.

In other parts of the world energy efficiency has a different meaning. Check out this story about a lighting initiative in Africa.

Singer Akon launches academy to help Africans harness the sunshine

Senegalese-American singer Akon, whose Akon Lighting Africa initiative aims to bring electricity to some of the 600 million Africans who lack it, announced on Thursday the launch of a new "Solar Academy" for the continent.

The institution, scheduled to open this summer in Bamako, Mali's capital, will try to give African engineers and entrepreneurs the skills needed to develop solar power. European experts will help supply training equipment and programs. The academy will aim to teach people how to install and maintain solar-powered electricity systems as well as micro grids, "which are really taking off in rural Africa," Akon Lighting Africa said.

Africa has 320 days of sunshine a year, the organization said in a statement, so harnessing solar energy is an ideal way to enable those without electricity to get it. "We have the sun and innovative technologies to bring electricity to homes and communities. We now need to consolidate African expertise," said Samba Baithily, who founded Akon Lighting Africa with Akon and Thione Niang.

Seventy percent of Africans are under 35, and creating sustainable jobs is vital, the group said, so investing in solar power for the future can help in more ways than one. "We expect the Africans who graduate from this center to devise new, innovative, technical solutions," said Niang. "With this Academy, we can capitalize on Akon Lighting Africa and go further."



Source: <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/other/singer-akon-launches-academy-to-help-africans-harness-the-sunshine/ar-BBk4FRR>



If you spend hours on a computer, you know that the effects of spending too much time in front of a screen can have a negative impact on your body.

Ways to Ease the Pain

Here are a few simple, yet effective ways to find relief from CVS:

Blink. It washes your eyes in naturally therapeutic tears.

Follow the 20-20-20 rule. Every 20 minutes, spend 20 seconds looking at something 20 feet away, minimum.

Adjust your lighting. Keep bright lighting overhead to a minimum and try to keep window light off to the side, rather than in front or behind you. Use blinds or get a glare screen to reduce reflections from windows or overhead lights.

Modify your screen settings. Make sure your screen is at least 20 inches from your eyes and that the center is about 4 to 6 inches below eye level. With screens, bigger is better. Also, be sure to adjust the brightness and contrast, and to check that the resolution is optimal.

See your eye care provider. During your next comprehensive eye exam, ask your provider about **computer glasses**. He or she can prescribe a pair of glasses just for viewing the computer screen. Plus, your provider will look for signs of health conditions like diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, glaucoma, and macular degeneration. It's an important part of your overall health routine.

JULY 2015

UV Safety Month

Over time, exposure to UV rays can lead to cataracts, macular degeneration, and in some cases blindness. Talk to your provider about eyewear that provides 100% protection from both UVA and UVB rays.

AUGUST 2015

Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

Did you know that 65% of children nationwide haven't had an eye exam in the last 12 months? Schedule an appointment for your child with a provider today.

Mark your calendars and join GLS!



If you're in the Norwalk area from June 15th – July 10th Listen to
Ground Levels Solutions Commercial on the radio!



July 1st Summer Crisis Kick-Off
1520 Old Henderson Rd
Columbus, OH 43220
Call 614.457.4570
for more information



July 25th from Noon – 10pm
360 S. Yearling Rd
Whitehall, OH 43213



August 24th – 30th
23000 Fairgrounds Rd
Wellington, OH 44090

To place an ad in The Energy Solution please contact:
Angela Hampton
614.8761.7992 Ext. 35
hamptona@groundlevelsolutions.org

GROUND LEVEL SOLUTIONS, INC.

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John Johnson, Jr. Executive Director

Ground Level Solutions, Inc. Board Members

Ground Level Solution's Directors, as members of the strategic governing body of the organization, have a significant responsibility to help lead the company to effectively meet the needs of our stakeholders, and our organization. The Directors seek to further the benefits to the public by ensuring that the services delivered by our company are held as the recognized standard of excellence for Energy Efficiency and Energy Education for low-to middle income families. The Board of Directors operates under its bylaws and within the Policy Governance model. This approach to the job of governing promotes the strategic ability to guide leadership and emphasizes values, vision, and the empowerment of both Board members and staff.

2015 Ground Level Solutions, Inc. Board of Directors

Mr. Talbert Jones, President - Executive Director, MRM-TOAP

Mr. James E. Zorn, Vice-President- Deputy Chief Council, Franklin County Children Services

Mr. Roger Warner, Secretary/Treasurer - Attorney at Law

Judge Scott D. VanDerKarr - Franklin County Municipal Court - General Division

Mr. Zachary Woodruff, City of Whitehall, Economic Development Director

Ms. Sheila R. Chodosh, Chodosh & Chodosh, Attorney at Law

Mr. Charles C. Ramsey, Business Development, Guernsey Bank

Didn't see it in this issue? Please submit your articles today!

hamptona@groundlevelsolutions.org