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NEWS

First Choice Power awards Sam Houston High School Grant to help save money, energy by installing energy-efficient upgrades

Sam Houston High School to save on energy bills through Reduce Your Use Grant™ program

IRVING, TEXAS – (January 13, 2012) – First Choice Power is helping Sam Houston High School save money on its energy bills by awarding two Reduce Your Use Grants™ that the school will use to purchase a printer, camera, Dell computer netbooks and a refrigerator. Frank Elia and Thomas Holster are the two teachers receiving the grants, each about \$1,800, for their science classrooms.

Sam Houston High School received two of the 32 Reduce Your Use Grant recipients during the fall 2011 grant cycle. First Choice Power awarded a total of nearly \$61,000 in grants across the state. Reduce Your Use Grants™ provide Texas schools, chambers and nonprofits as much as \$2,000 for energy-efficient upgrades, products and programs.

“This grant program allows First Choice Power to help build the communities we’re apart of in a more energy efficient way,” said Catherine Carlton, community relations manager, First Choice Power. “By helping nonprofits and schools afford environmentally friendly upgrades, we are able to help reduce their energy usage and at the same time lower their bill.”

The grant will help the school purchase energy-efficient technology items to help enhance students’ learning experiences while saving on energy bills.

“Replacing an older refrigerator with a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator could save up to \$100 per year,” said Jennifer DuPlessis, energy manager for AISD. “Replacing an energy-efficient netbook can save \$40 per year over a traditional desktop computer and monitor.

“The items that the campus has been able to purchase with the grant will most importantly advance instruction at the campus, but will also save money and bring awareness to the students,” she said. “We are very appreciative to those in the community who partner with us to improve our schools.”

Other grant recipients in Arlington include Clyde Ashworth Elementary; Shackelford Junior High School; and Safe Haven of Tarrant County. For more information and a list of all 2011 recipients, visit www.FirstChoicePower.com/reduce.

About First Choice Power

First Choice Power is a part of the Direct Energy family of companies, one of North America’s largest energy and energy-related services providers with over 6 million residential and commercial relationships. Direct Energy with its First Choice Power, CPL Retail Energy and WTU Retail Energy brands, is the third-largest retail electricity provider in Texas. It owns three power generation facilities and a series of energy related services companies. First

Choice Power provides customers with choice and support in managing their energy costs through a portfolio of innovative products and services. A subsidiary of Centrica plc (LSE:CAN), one of the world's leading integrated energy companies, Direct Energy operates in 46 states and 10 provinces in Canada. For more information, visit www.FirstChoicePower.com. Keep up to date on the latest energy news and join the conversation by following us on Twitter @firstchoicepwr, Facebook facebook.com/FirstChoicePower or The Current blog, <http://www.firstchoicepower.com/blog>.

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