



# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION 2015 STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

PEAK Student Energy Actions, an environmental education program of The Energy Coalition, aims to make high-quality, action-based, environmental education available and accessible to more classrooms throughout the state of California. In the 2014-2015 school year, PEAK collected 15,885 pretests and posttests from participating schools throughout the state. These are highlights of what we learned.<sup>1</sup>



hands-on science



environmental stewardship



STEM careers



energy management

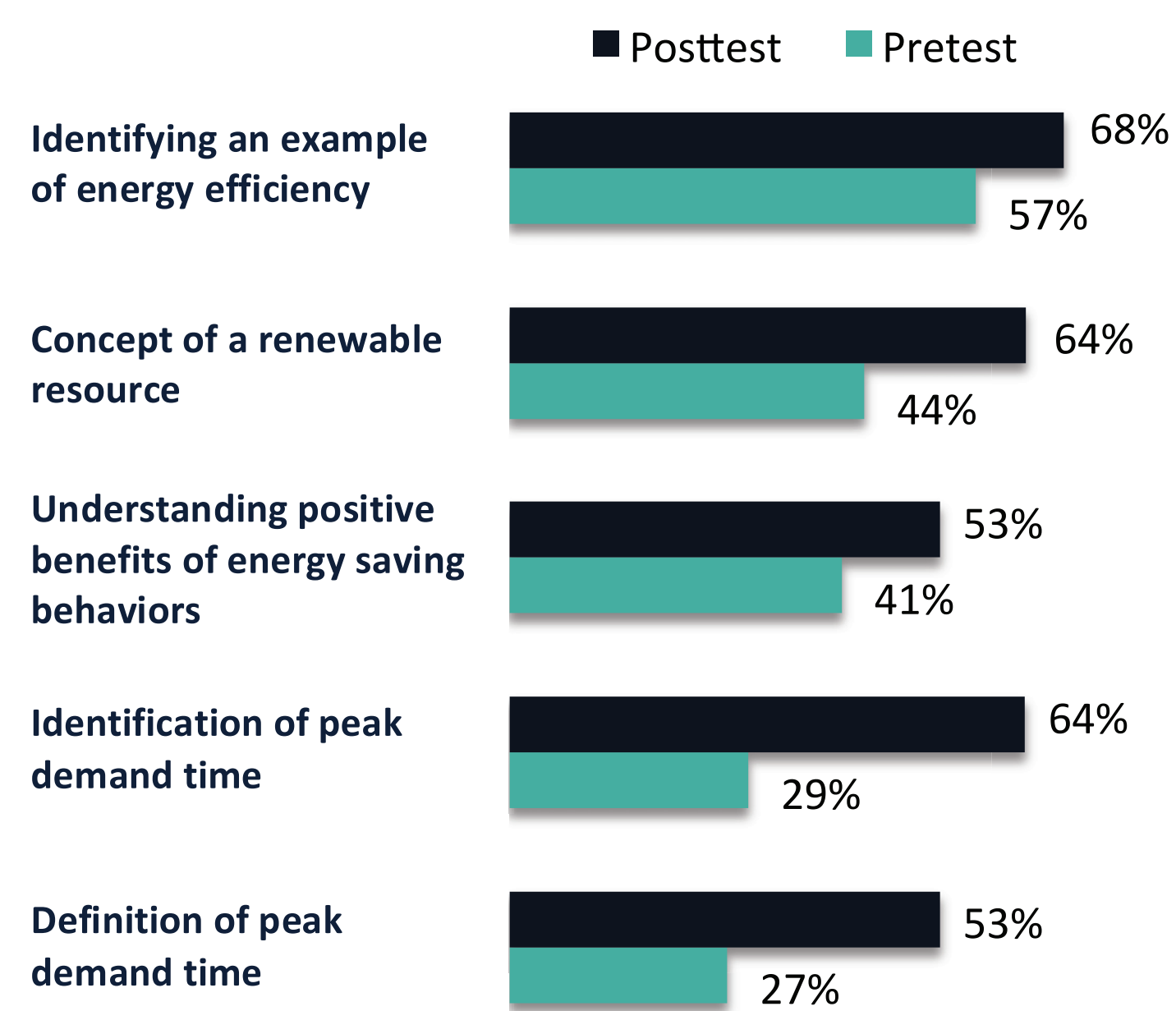
## INTRODUCTION

Incorporating strong Evaluation, Metrics, and Verification (EM&V) standards into the planning phases of your program or pilot project can lead to an array of impressive results to showcase in the end. The story of how one environmental education program was able to accomplish this, and truly illustrate effectiveness, shows us that we can all take some vital EM&V steps and showcase the influence of our programs towards multiple environmental goals.

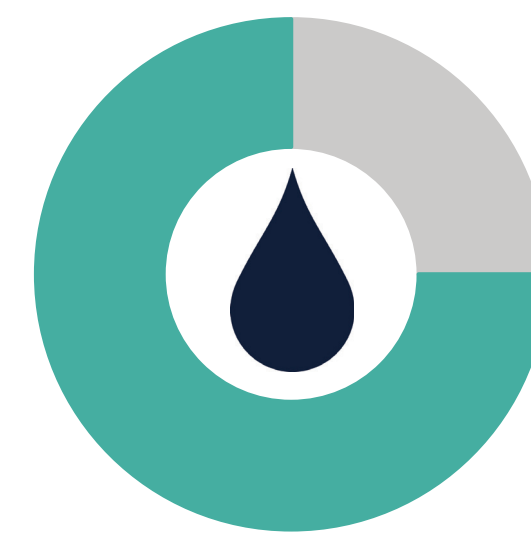
PEAK Student Energy Actions, an environmental science education program of The Energy Coalition, aims to make innovative, standard-based, action-oriented programming accessible to a wide range of teachers throughout the state of California, particularly those who serve “underserved” and/or “disadvantaged” populations. PEAK strives to increase the environmental literacy and pro-environmental behaviors of school-aged children while also increasing the population of young people who are interested in Green Careers.

## KNOWLEDGE GAINS

The PEAK student population made highly statistically significant gains in every dimension of knowledge assessed.



## SAVING WATER



**75%** of students say they are “pretty sure” or “definitely” sure that they save water more often than they used to because of PEAK.

## SAVING ENERGY



**69%** of students say they are “pretty sure” or “definitely” sure that they save energy more often than they used to because of PEAK.

## SHARING LEARNING



**62%** of students say they shared their learning with others.

## TAKING ACTION WITH OTHERS



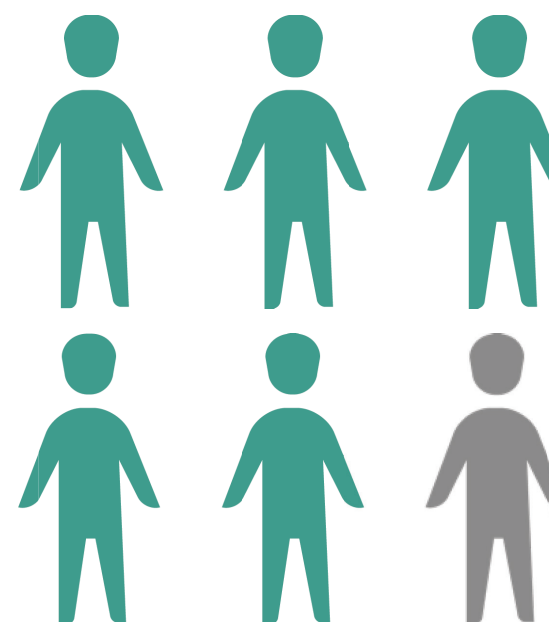
**50%** of students say they took more action with friends or family because of what they learned in PEAK.

## INTEREST IN SCIENCE



**77%** of students agree or strongly agree that after participating in PEAK, they are more interested in science than they were before.

## AWARENESS OF “GREEN” CAREERS



Five out of every six students (84%) agree or strongly agree that they know more about “green” and energy careers after participating in PEAK.

## RESULTS

In the 2014-2015 school year, roughly 31,670 K-8 California students were reached through PEAK. In an effort to learn more about program effectiveness, nearly 16,000 pretests and posttests that educators administered to their students were collected. The data was then analyzed to distill key learning elements and to summarize evidence of progress toward four dimensions of student outcomes – knowledge, conservation behavior, engagement of family and others, and interest in “Green Careers”.

The results showed highly statistically significant increases in every dimension of student knowledge that was assessed, and almost equally impressive results for behavior change and an interest in science, generally. There are important lessons that can be learned from this study for anyone looking to evaluate the knowledge and behavior change goals of their programs.

<sup>1</sup>For more details about this evaluation and these key findings please see the full report, “PEAK Student Energy Actions Evaluation of Student Outcomes in the 2014-2015 School Year.”

PEAK IS A PROGRAM OF



energycoalition.org

PEAK is funded in part by California utility customers and is administered by: Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, SoCalGas, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Additionally, TEC receives funding to administer PEAK within Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Sacramento Municipal Utility District and Anaheim Public Utility territories.