Service Learning Scenario #1 Energy

Your students conducted the Energy school investigation and found there are many ways your school could improve on energy efficiency. Some of the things you discovered were: lights are left on when no one is in the room, service doors are frequently left open and windows are drafty.

Question – What types of service learning projects can be designed using these findings?

Suggestions:

- Learn where your power comes from. What is the source of that electricity? (hydro, wind, coal, etc.) What are the pros and cons of each type of power generation? If possible, take a field trip to visit your power generation facility.
- Calculate how much it costs per hour to have a light on. How many lights are in the building? What does it cost to light the school each day? What is the cost if lights are left on when no one is using them? Can natural light be substituted in some areas? Are there incandescent lights that can be changed to fluorescent? How can you encourage people to turn off the lights?
- How much heat/cold transfer occurs when a door is left open for a certain period of time? What does this cost? What can you do to encourage people to close doors?
- How many windows are in the school? How much air escapes around each window? What does this heat/cool transfer cost? What would it cost to repair the windows and how would you do it?
- Now that you've learned some of these energy conservation methods about your school, apply them at home. What improvements can you make at home and how much money would it save your parents?