



Photo By John Brock

Inola's seventh and eighth grade classes and teacher Carol Holland was awarded the first ever Green Flag.

Inola's Green Team Develops Environmental Awareness

By Martha Brock

The Inola Green Team, students in the Seventh and Eighth grades, are leading the way in developing environmental awareness.

Carol Holland, Middle School teacher who has been involved in recycling programs, was chosen by the Oklahoma Green Schools Program to lead the class in the "partnership in Environment Education Foundation, project early in the year.

Her students were given the challenge of conducting studies on all the rooms in the Middle School, High School and Elementary buildings to evaluate energy usage in terms of indoor air quality, proper lighting heating and air conditioning.

"mature attitude in this area," said Les Pace, a director with the Oklahoma Green Schools Program. Pace says the "Partnership in Environmental Education Foundation" has been in energy education to school districts since 1970. They have tried to engage students from Kindergarten through grade 12.

The Inola Middle School students, split up into teams, were given equipment and training to test these categories as one of 10 schools in Oklahoma chosen as a pilot program last year.

Recently two students and Mrs. Holland spoke to the Inola School Board on some of their findings.

Holland said such simple alternatives as replacing the

200 watt compact florescent light can mean an 80 percent savings.

The Green Team also learned with a testing device provided by Les Pace, on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Green School Program, that another simple and easy procedure, hitting the power surge on computers can also mean sizable energy savings.

The Green students studied the classroom air quality in regard to carbon dioxide levels, lighting temperature and humidity.

Holland said she had taken training before school began to teach the class and the students also received specialized training and equipment from the program as a part of the

On Tuesday of last week the students were presented with the first Green Flag in the state.

Holland said her class were proud to be the first school in the state to raise the Green Flag of Excellence

Inola Schools can now be recognized as a certified Green School.

Holland says her students plan to continue their work in energy savings. Next year they plan to expand the school recycling program, study alternate energy sources, such as solar and wind power.

The Inola Green Team hope to raise energy saving awareness throughout the Inola community, she said.

The Green Team has taken "ownership" of the school and