This year I began the challenge of taking on the NEED Project solo. Over the years I have learned so much from NEED and Debbie Pate. This year we started with the basics. We have used many NEED lesson plans and activities, ordered projects from Amazon, and had parents send in items. We also did some of my old, but good favorites too! The solar ovens were a huge hit, Candy Collector really hit home with my students, and Sidekick Circuits were the best.

We also performed community education. We decorated drink holders for our friends at Starbucks and grocery bags for 2 Publix supermarkets with energy conservation pleas. We invited John Stanton from Pensacola Energy in to talk with us about what our city is doing to conserve energy. And our BIG project was creating a slide about recycling for our very own Pensacola Blue Wahoos, our local double A baseball team. It was shown at many games and seen by tens of thousands! We are constantly educating more and more people on energy and energy conservation!
Goal 1: Increase student awareness of alternative energy sources.

**Energy Content Activities:**
1. Miss Bradley will teach her class about different energy sources.
2. Students will participate in hands-on activities using NEED resources.
3. Students will work together in small groups to conduct investigations and participate in activities.
4. Parents and guest speakers will assist in student learning.

**Student Leadership:**
1. Students will plan, organize, and assist others in small group and individual activities.

**Resources:**

**Evaluation:**
1. Class discussions after activities
2. Posters made by students
3. Outcome of activities and investigations
4. NEED evaluations
5. Student cooperation and interest in activities
We began the year learning about different forms of energy. We made posters to show our understanding. We also learned about which energy sources are renewable and nonrenewable. Learning About Energy!

We didn’t like it when our towns ran out of nonrenewable resources. Candy Collector really helped us understand the need for renewable resources. Why aren’t we using more of these already?
We invited John Stanton from Pensacola Energy to talk with us about what the city of Pensacola is doing to conserve energy. He brought in cards with the scent of Natural Gas for us to smell. It was gross! Watch our video!

We also invited our school district energy management manager in to speak with the entire third grade. She taught us how to save energy at home and at school. She even brought us wildflower seeds to plant!
Solar Energy

Solar cars, solar houses, solar ovens, oh my!!

We made s’mores in our solar ovens!
Sidekicks & Solar Beads

We loved making our Sidekick Circuits and UV bead chameleons!
Wind Energy

While learning about wind energy, we built a wind turbine and went outside with our pinwheels to study how wind works!

Magnets

We enjoyed learning about magnets and their poles using NEED materials!
Goal 2: Increase **community** awareness by sharing what we’ve learned.

**Energy Content Activities:**
2. Decorate cold/hot sleeves for Starbucks.
3. Make bookmarks for our local public library.
4. Taught other local students about UV light.
5. Invited John Stanton from Pensacola Energy to teach him about our energy activities and learn about how our city uses energy.
6. Partnered with our local MLB baseball team, the Blue Wahoo’s, to teach the public about recycling.

**Student Leadership:**
1. NEED students taught a representative from Pensacola Energy about energy.
2. Students took lead role in activities.
3. Students educated their families and involved them in activities.
4. NEED students taught Gulf Breeze students about UV light.

**Resources:**

**Evaluation:**
1. Class discussions during and after activities
2. Project assessment by teacher
3. Outcome of activities and investigations
4. NEED evaluations
5. Student cooperation and interest in activities
Educating Starbucks & Publix customers

We decorated Starbucks drink holders and Publix grocery backs with energy saving messages. We were even able to hand them out to customers!

Publix used some of the bags and put others on display. One Publix sees about 5,000 people per day and the other one sees 10,000!

This Starbucks sees about 700 people per day!
We made placemats for a local pizza restaurant called Georgio’s. They get over 500 customers a day! And they promised to use the placemats for the next couple of months!

Every year we make bookmarks for our local public library. This year we made 200 for them. We are told that the kids there love them!
Pen Pals

This year we had Pen Pals from Gulf Breeze Elementary. We sent them UV bead bracelets and information on UV rays. We were so excited to educate other third graders with our NEED resources!

The Blue Wahoos!!

We have partnered up with our local MLB baseball team, The Blue Wahoos, to spread energy awareness and recycling! We had the opportunity to put a slide on their giant video monitor during games. The stadium seats over 5,000 people! That means at least 5,000 people will get to view our slide every game! Now that’s a home run!

We even sent them some sunscreen to protect them from the UV rays!

Wow! Look at us on the HUGE monitor!
This is our team!

We would like to send a big THANK YOU to NEED for designing such an amazing curriculum! We had so much fun this year with all of our activities! I have parents begging for their kids to be in my class so that they can do these projects. Other classes see us having fun while learning and want to join! I tribute that to my friends at the NEED Project!

We have bins set up around school to encourage all 563 students to recycle!