

TRANSCRIPT

Narrator: For more than a century, Edison International has remained committed to protecting the environment.

Narrator: Partnering with the University Of Southern California Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies on the Edison Challenge Program demonstrates how the company lives its commitment.

Narrator: The Edison Challenge is a science competition that offers students in grades 6 through 12 the opportunity to take a hands-on approach to learning about the environmental sciences.

The program is open to teens from schools in Edison service territory in central, coastal, and southern California.

Vanessa Knutson, Edison Challenge Program Specialist, USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies: It's also great because Edison really cares about the environment. It's not just a company that's interested in providing electricity to everyone; they're more about the environment and making an impact in the community. So it's great to have someone that understands the needs of our society and the needs of the children and students in our society as well.

Tammy Tumbling, Manager, Community Involvement, Edison International: Edison International is pleased to partner with the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies on the Edison Challenge. This program helps to nurture imaginations, as well as foster the academic success of the energy workforce of the future.

USC is a valued partner in the Edison Challenge. The Wrigley Institute engages students on issues about the environment through their innovative science education programs.

Narrator: The Edison Challenge invites teams of teachers and students to submit energy and the environment themed projects on one of the following topics:

- Energy transfer
- Energy conservation and energy efficiency
- Environmental protection and sustainability
- Climate change
- Renewable energy resources
- Air and water quality
- Alternative transportation

The program begins each fall and ends in early spring.

Narrator: Students are not the only ones who take a hands-on approach to learning. Teachers are invited to attend a series of specially designed workshops to enhance environmental sciences training. The workshops are lead by science experts from Edison and USC. Edison International also provides guest speakers, science mentors, program funding and more.

Teachers take what they have learned back to their classrooms and guide students in creating innovative projects that address current environmental issues.

Narrator: In early spring, teams submit projects that include a lesson plan and a community service component. High school teams also submit a research proposal.

Narrator: First place teams win a week at the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center on Catalina Island, filled with science, snorkeling, kayaking and more.

Second place teams win a four-day field study expedition to Edison's Big Creek hydroelectric facility in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Teachers of the finalist's teams receive a cash prize for classroom supplies or professional development.

Bill Brooks, Teacher, Eastshore Elementary School, Irvine, California: I think I'll remember most about watching the students grow as they figured out their project, which was composting. And then they had to deal with adults and people in their community and in the school district too, to teach others how to compost. And to actually see their project go all the way through and then of course, the highlight was winning and being able to spend seven days on Catalina Island.

Narrator: The Edison Challenge offers students the opportunity to experience science in a different way.

Alice Pan, Student, Gabrielino High School, San Gabriel, California: I think it's a really cool program because it gets us to think outside the box, like normally, what we'd do is go into a classroom - it's very theoretical, we just learn about the things we need to do.

While participating in the Edison Challenge, we get to do hands-on experiments and I think it's really cool because it's not something we could do every day.

Rhodri John, Student, Eastshore Elementary School, Irvine, California: It actually taught me a lot of things because I didn't think that even if I recycled or if I did everything I could to help the environment, that I wouldn't really do it - because I'm only one person.

But with this program, I actually learned a lot and so I can make a difference just by myself.

Narrator: For more information on the Edison Challenge, visit www.sce.com/edisonchallenge