

## COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

**D**uring the last two weeks of March, 6th grade students from Mammoth Middle School were asked to go out into the community and ask hotels, restaurants, and other retail businesses questions regarding water and energy conservation. These questions were based on topics such as recycling, Energy Star® appliances, solar panels, low-flow faucets and toilets, carpooling, turning off lights, TVs, and computers at the end of the day. This was part of their LivingWise® program, (sponsored by High Sierra Energy Initiative, Mammoth Community Water District and Edison), designed to teach kids how to save water and energy at home. The intention was to see what businesses are doing to save water and electricity. Here are what some of the students had to say after doing this project:

**Emily** – It was fun because we know now how restaurants, the community and businesses are saving water and energy.

**Avery** – I had a lot of fun, me and my friends got to walk around town and ask businesses questions.

**Alex** – I learned that they (businesses) help the community to save water and energy.

**Ricky** – It was kind of embarrassing, it was weird going in asking them questions, but they (businesses) were really helpful, but it was better once I started the conversation.

For many students it was the first insight into how a business is run.

**Hannah** – I thought it was interesting to learn how the businesses worked.

**Lupita** – It was impressive how some of the businesses actually saved water and energy.

**Mason** – A lot more businesses than I thought saved water and energy.

**Ari** – I learned that many people that work in businesses are informed about conserving water and energy.

Other students found that some businesses were just beginning to implement conservation practices.

**Jorge** – One of the businesses recycled more than other businesses I went to – they recycled in a big container. I found other businesses would just throw everything away.

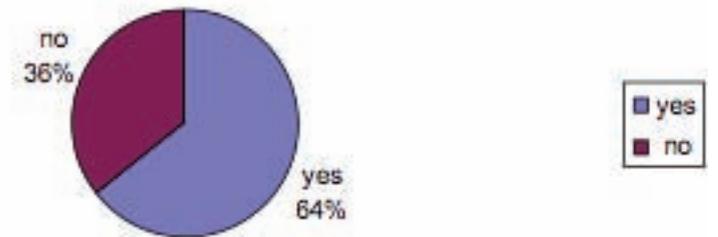
**Alexia** – One of the businesses was conserving energy very well, they were gradually getting into more energy efficient products so they are aware of what they have to do.

**Gerardo** – The business I went to, they

Hotels that installed motion sensors for lights and faucets



Businesses that carpool, walk, or take trolley



Survey results were graphed in pie charts for a further understanding of who's doing what. Above are two examples.

always check their sprinklers to make sure they don't hit the sidewalk and the road so they don't waste water.

In total, the 6th graders went to 8 hotels, 17 restaurants and 43 retail stores.

The students thank the businesses in town for taking the time to answer questions and for becoming more aware of water and energy conservation in our homes and our businesses.

**OUR TOWN NEEDS OUR HELP!**

Currently, our town only recycles 27% of home & office waste. Cardboard and office paper make up the biggest culprits. What we are living with is the result of human choices, and it can be changed by making better, wiser choices. Please make a habit to come down to our Transfer Station with your recyclables.

**Do your part. Please recycle more.**

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