Hello,

I have some no cost or very low cost ideas that your WORRRMS Club could support and be ENERGY CHAMPIONS for Manitou Springs School District # 14.

You could start a program that your students express concern for reducing our energy needs and reduce our carbon foot print. These concerns could first start on the simple people activities:

1. Remind everyone to shut off lights when the room is not being occupied. Make up signs, develop a chart giving recognition to classrooms that follow sound conserving energy activities for this and items below.
2. Unplug and turn off computers when not being used.
3. Turn off tech carts when not being used.
4. Turn off power strips when not being used. Power strips are great in turning off several different pieces of equipment.
5. Unplug unnecessary appliances when not in use.
6. Remove all individual refrigerators.
7. Remove all individual microwaves.
8. Remove all individual coffee pots.
9. Remove all individual hot plates.
10. Remove all individual heaters.
11. Remove all individual fans.
12. Shut off all vending machines on weekends and school breaks.
13. Close open windows during the heating season.
14. Have students notify me of energy waster activities that they see so we could work towards correcting the problem.

I have other ideas if any of this would might be of interest to your group.

I can introduce you to some very successful high schools who have won many sustainability awards and belong to nation wide organizations that promote school student energy clubs. I even know one school that would come and visit with your students how they have made a significant difference in the energy usage for their schools.

I do not have the time to promote energy ideas with the students; but I do have suggestions that your students could do, and could give some limited financial support. I could buy a meter so that your students could show how much energy and much it costs to run a individual refrigerator all the school year or any other piece of equipment.

I might also be able to provide energy classroom materials for all grade levels to promote energy conservation. I tried this last year with the principals and science teachers; but could not get the individual schools to carry it forward, I just could not devote the time and energy it takes to make these programs work.