

STUDENTS IN CRDA COMMUNITIES – PROTECTORS OF THE NATURE



"Agency for the Protection of the Environment" – students in Razanj protecting the environment



Students showing good examples of energy efficiency

BELGRADE, SERBIA – The entire 2002/2003 school year for children in 95 schools in Eastern and Southern Serbia is dedicated to the environment through what is known as the *Green Schools* program. Green Schools, a USAID funded project, is the part of Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA) program that promotes energy efficiency and conservation and environmental awareness. It is developed in coordination with US based NGOs CHF International and Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) with Serbian Ministry of Education and Sport. The Green Schools program received special attention in Razanj, a small municipality in Southern Serbia, where students who are participating in the program prepared a performance about energy efficiency and environmental protection. The event was held in the hall of the Cultural Center in Razanj on March 28, 2003 and it was filled to capacity. The performance gathered students, teachers and parents from all the villages in the area. It included a performance featuring 3 plays from the Green Schools curriculum.

The whole event was publicized with posters, created and distributed by the students themselves. The plays showed the most dangerous pollutants, the significance of renewable and non renewable energy sources and the ways they are used in everyday life. The plays

also showed how the excessive use of energy leads to resource depletion and can have devastating effects on nature.

The outstanding enthusiasm of the students, teachers and school personnel, as well as the members of the community in the audience, from this poor municipality contributed to the unforgettable atmosphere of this event. The importance of this event in Razanj is in the involvement of the entire school and families in the event.

This shows that the Green Schools program is clearly accepted in the Municipality of Razanj as a new educational concept that promotes team work and active participation of students in the educational process.

At the end of this school year CHF is organizing a poster competition entitled "The Environment and My Community". Students in CRDA communities will have another opportunity to show how rational energy use can influence the preservation of the environment and improves life in the community. The best drawings will be recognized at a final ceremony organized for students, parents and teachers in June 2003 in Belgrade.

The power of the Green Schools program is in the fact that all who care about energy efficiency and the environment are winners! Parents in CRDA communities now have good example on how to protect nature and conserve energy.