

“In addition to helping us implement renewable energy at our facility, the (Solar4RSchools) program includes hands-on learning tools such as solar ovens and cars, stimulating interest in science and helping the children discover the responsibilities and joys of the community they help create.”

- Teresa Chocano,  
Orcas Montessori



# HANDS-ON LEARNING



Founded in 1988, **Orcas Montessori School** provides a dynamic learning environment for preschoolers and kindergartners. “The Montessori teaching method offers children a wealth of hands-on activities,” explains school director Teresa Chocano. “Each activity is presented individually and in keeping with each child’s needs and abilities, under observation of a trained guide.” Undertaking a series of energy saving measures to provided a great hands-on lesson in environmental education.

Orcas Montessori has left no stone unturned in a series of energy saving projects. First, with the help of a Community Energy Challenge incentive, the school replaced an oil fired boiler with a ductless heat pump. This one improvement reduces their heating bill by \$1,750 annually and generates 61% less carbon.

With support from Orcas Power and Light Cooperative (OPALCO), the Community Energy Challenge, and Orcas Island community members, a Bonneville Power grant enabled the school to install solar panels on the roof.

Orcas Montessori was also able to use a rebate from OPALCO covering 70% of the cost to replace old florescent lamps with high efficiency ones. Lastly, Sage Building Solutions helped improve comfort and save energy by insulating and air sealing the attic and basement crawlspace of the school.

*The Community Energy Challenge is reducing NW Washington's energy consumption by helping homes and businesses find smart, simple ways to save. Currently operating in Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and San Juan counties, the program creates green jobs in our community while making energy efficiency more accessible and affordable than ever before.*

## Energy Saving Measures

- Ductless heat pump replaced oil-fired boiler
- 9.72 kW Solar PV array captures energy on the roof
- Energy efficient T-8 lighting installed
- Attic and crawlspace air sealed and insulated
- Solar oven used for cooking
- Students engaged in energy saving measures



Choose local businesses taking action for a healthy community.

