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Elementary School Wins \$250K 'Green Makeover'

[http://www.thecitystarsf.com/article-606-elementary-school-wins-\\$250k-'green-makeover'.html](http://www.thecitystarsf.com/article-606-elementary-school-wins-$250k-'green-makeover'.html)

A crowd of screaming children and Mayor Gavin Newsom celebrated Rosa Parks Elementary School's triumph Friday in a city-wide contest that awarded \$250,000 in environmentally-friendly upgrades to the school.

Rosa Parks Elementary and 14 other San Francisco schools had submitted short films or written reports on the question "What does it mean to be green?" for the competition organized by EcoMedia, a Chicago-based advertising firm that works to highlight private companies' environmental credentials.

EcoMedia had gathered sponsors, including Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and several other companies to give the school a "green makeover" following the contest.

At the awards presentation Friday, Newsom asked what "green" meant to the 3rd, 4th and 5th-graders gathered in the school auditorium, who gave responses ranging from "turn off the lights" and "composting" to "do your work." Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi also spoke at the meeting, reminding participants that less than four years ago, Rosa Parks Elementary School was in danger of being closed down.