

# LET'S SAVE ENERGY

## School Energy Efficiency News

KSBA-SEMP ... Cultivating energy efficiency,  
best practices in Kentucky school districts



June 2017

## Eighteen districts recognized for 100 percent ENERGY STAR Schools



Why do Kentucky schools focus on ENERGY STAR? It is simple. ENERGY STAR recognition is a key measure indicating a school district is using taxpayer money efficiently.

Currently, 18 school districts in Kentucky have 100 percent ENERGY STAR Labeled schools. Those districts include:

Burgin Independent  
Butler County  
Caldwell County  
Corbin Independent  
Crittenden County  
Elliott County  
Frankfort Independent  
Henry County  
Lee County

Marion County  
Middlesboro Ind  
Pendleton County  
Robertson County  
Scott County  
Southgate Independent  
Walton-Vernon Ind  
Williamstown Ind  
Woodford County

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Districts with 100 percent ENERGY STAR school buildings received additional recognition during a recent KSBA conference. District representatives gathered above are, front row from left, Becky Barnes (Frankfort), Taylora Schlosser (Marion County), Robert Story (Walton-Verona Independent), Nancy White (Elliott County), JoAnna Fryman (Scott County), Jim Evans (Lee County). Back row from left, Jeremy Winters (Williamstown Independent), Tony Whaley (Henry County), Greg Duty (Southgate Independent), Anthony Strong (Pendleton County), Steve Martin (Middlesboro Independent), John Burns (Robertson County), Bill Asbridge (Crittenden County), Mike Traylor (Caldwell County), Bob Clark (Burgin Independent). Districts achieving that honor but whose representatives were not present for picture are Butler County, Corbin Independent and Woodford County.



# School Energy Summit

Over a year ago when KSBA considered hosting a School Energy Summit, a dream attendance goal was set at 200 attendees, along with a realistic goal of 150. Now that the inaugural event has been held and 206 people were in attendance, plans are already in progress for the 2018 School Energy Summit.

School energy management requires involvement from many stakeholders. Board members, district administrators, faculty/staff, and vendors agree that a well thought-out process is important for success in reducing energy consumption and saving dollars. The Summit integrated those stakeholders with the end result of professional development for all.

Three general sessions were held during the Summit that featured leaders from all stakeholder groups. Senior leaders discussed current policy, industry changes and economic factors. Participant comments included such phrases as "Stellar Panel," "Best Session," "Best Q&A I have been in for a while," and "Loved seeing the top executives here."

Breakout sessions included two facility tours, an extended session on energy management basics and 12 different breakout sessions. Comments and evaluations were excellent for all sessions.

Learning objectives for the Summit included:

- Examine the energy and economic trends impacting schools.
- Showcase best practices for optimum energy efficiency impacting the bottom line.
- Examine future trends that are impacted by technological advances.
- Provide professional development for public or private, K-12 and postsecondary schools.
- Build partnerships with the school communities to support energy-efficiency efforts.

Nearly half of the written evaluation comments focused on the positive aspects of the networking that occurred among energy managers, vendors and other stakeholders. The challenge now is to turn the learning and networking into day-to-day savings. As one participant said, "Can't wait to see what you will do next year!" We can't wait to see, either!



Jeffersontown High School senior Lyric Hill opens the School Energy Summit with the national anthem, while the school's award-winning Color Guard presents the flag.

SEMP Program Manager Jon Nipple moderates the Electric Utility Executive panels with Chuck Session, vice president of DUKE Energy Kentucky; David Huff, director, Customer Energy Efficiency/Smart Grid Strategy Louisville Gas & Electric-Kentucky Utilities; Ranie Wohnhas, managing director, regulatory and finance, Kentucky Power; and Chris Perry, president of the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives. One attendee wrote "Stellar Panel! Excellent to hear from leadership across the state."



# CONSIDER THIS PROJECT:

## SEPF projects to pay-back in less than three years

Clay County Schools has been working for several years to reduce energy use, but like most school districts, it was hampered by insufficient funds to make improvements. That didn't stop the District Energy Team from developing a list of recommended energy projects – at the time considered dream projects. The list included lighting needs that would eliminate an ongoing maintenance nightmare.



The majority of classroom lighting at the Clay County Middle School was the older

*Superintendent William Sexton was part of the crew checking to be sure the lighting lens covers were secure in classrooms.*

T12 fluorescent technology. Because of the age of the units, the light levels had degraded and components were being replaced as they failed.

When the Special Energy Project Funding became available in June 2016 through KSBA-SEMP, the district was immediately ready to apply for the funding. Since the "dream" energy savings projects had already been identified, district leaders had a plan to implement them over a six-month period. That plan replaced over 300 T12 lights in the classrooms and hallways, with installation accomplished by district maintenance and administrative staff during fall and winter breaks. Total cost for the project was around \$26,000, with \$12,000 of that coming from the SEPF.

With a reduction in usage of nearly 188,000 kWh, the annual saving is projected around \$18,000. "Our focus is always on creating success for our students. This funding has allowed us to significantly improve the learning environment, as well as capture energy savings to be used for our students," said Clay County Schools Superintendent William Sexton.

## Eighteen districts recognized *(continued from page 1)*

The designation of ENERGY STAR is significant because a professional engineer or registered architect must affix a seal verifying facility data, energy data, and air quality levels provide a healthy environment. An ENERGY STAR Labeled school is operating as efficiently as the top 25 percent of K-12 schools nationwide.

The number of Kentucky ENERGY STAR Labeled schools has increased nearly 500 percent (from 68 to 388 schools) since 2010, when Kentucky public schools were required by KRS160.325 to begin reporting annual energy consumption and costs.

Historically, electricity prices in Kentucky were among the lowest in the nation, influenced by availability of coal. With recent changes in environmental regulations, those costs are steadily increasing. Schools have responded with a corresponding increased focus on being efficient.

A school's operating costs are directly related to its energy usage. As energy usage goes down, costs go down. The difference between operating at a national average energy usage versus an energy-efficient level can be tens of thousands of dollars annually for a single school. That is why the Kentucky School Boards Association's School Energy Managers Project coined the phrase "Dollars for Students, Not Energy." That focus has resulted in a cumulative savings of

over \$123 million for districts to use in meeting other educational needs.

With tightened budgets and rising utility costs, it is more critical than ever to implement energy efficiency strategies. Resources from the ENERGY STAR program provide opportunities to recognize effective use of taxpayer money, translating to "Dollars for Students, Not Energy."

*School board decisions around energy have created some significant milestones:*

*August 2011 - 100th ENERGY STAR Labeled school – Millbrooke Elementary, Christian County Schools  
May 2012 – Twelve Highly-Rated ENERGY STAR schools (rating between 95-100)*

*April 2013 - 200th ENERGY STAR Labeled School – Caneyville Elementary, Grayson County Schools*

*December 2015 – Announcement of 300th ENERGY STAR Labeled School – Southside Elementary School, Shelby County Schools*

*February 2016 – Recognition of 10 100 percent ENERGY STAR School districts at KSBA's Annual Meeting*

*February 2017 – Recognition of 18 100 percent ENERGY STAR School districts at KSBA's Annual Meeting*

# School's out . . . what do your buildings look like?

## Summer setbacks should have an impact

Have you considered strolling through a school during the summer? It may be well worth the time as the impact of your district energy management plan can be easily reviewed. Below is an example of a summer setback checklist to help in your evaluation.

**EXAMPLE OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SUMMER SETBACK CHECKLIST**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Setback Action</b>		<b>Completed</b>
1.	Turn off and unplug computers, TVs, DVD players, coffee pots, and any other non-essential classroom/office electronic equipment.	
2.	Turn off electronic whiteboards, projection systems, computer monitors, printers, scanners, etc. Confirm with district IT regarding turning off computers.	
3.	Clean out and unplug personal refrigerators. Leave the door open.	
4.	Turn off all classroom lights. Turn off AND unplug any personal lamps.	
5.	Turn off all interior lighting unless specific area is being occupied for a period of time.	
6.	Set exterior lights to turn off during daylight hours (this should be done at every day, but would be good to confirm).	
7.	Turn off nonessential exhaust fans.	
8.	Never hang items from ceiling where lighting sensors may be located	
9.	Turn off all display case lighting.	
10.	Check summer schedule for school use. Reset controls OR thermostats to recommended setback temperatures.	
11.	Unplug chilled-water fountains, except in occupied areas. Check and report any leakage of water fixtures.	
12.	Remove all animals and plants, including fish aquariums, during summer break.	
Notes/Observations		