

LET'S SAVE ENERGY

School Energy Efficiency News

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



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Advantages of a Local Energy Manager

KSBA-SEMP providing energy manager services to several districts

Energy management is not a one-time program, but an ongoing assessment of current use, needs and options. The availability of funding from utility companies has given districts the option to continue partnering with one another for services from a trained energy manager or assigning the additional responsibility to an existing employee. Identification of various energy projects or initiatives is an important step in the process of energy management. The energy manager presents no-cost/low-cost initiatives and a listing of energy projects with the estimated payback, to the district. Continuous utility tracking is provided to ensure all opportunities for saving are identified.

This past year energy manager services have been available to a few districts directly through KSBA. With KSBA-SEMP staff providing services to Bourbon County, Estill County and Fairview Independent school districts these districts quickly adopted or renewed natural gas contracts with an annual savings between 6 percent and 20 percent. Additional savings were identified through state sales tax refunds, removal of unmetered outdoor lighting no longer in the district, and completion of utility rebate applications. All these steps required knowledge of utility billing and rebate options. The three districts had participated in the original SEMP funding; however they did not have a trained energy manager for three years, during which time there were utility rate changes, as well as new accounts added.



Supt Amy Baker

Bourbon County Superintendent Amy Baker and Director of Facilities Jim Cleaver were pleased with options for a replacement lighting project. "Identification of maintenance projects that also impact our energy consumption is allowing our district to make the most out of our maintenance dollars," Baker says.

Both Estill County and Fairview Independent assessments identified unmetered outdoor lighting that was no longer provided. "This is a common billing error because it is an unmetered service from the utility company," says Ron Willhite, KSBA-SEMP Director. "Utility company tariffs require ratepayers communicate service changes to the utility company." This definitely points out the importance of having a trained energy manager in every district.



Supt Jeff Saylor

"Receiving a \$3,940 refund check for unmetered lights that were no longer in existence, as well as an unexpected natural gas contract savings of \$12,000, certainly was good news during a tough budget cycle," Estill County Superintendent Jeff Saylor says.

"We are a small district and every penny counts," says Fairview Independent Superintendent Michael Taylor. "We also had a few outdoor lights that the utility company sent a \$500 refund for, but I would say the most important savings opportunity that was found was a jump in our demand, which identified an HVAC issue. That has now been corrected with an estimated 6 percent savings in energy costs over FY15."



Supt Michael Taylor

"As our district has been making strategic decisions for facility planning, we have also been provided information regarding potential utility impacts. Every penny counts."

School facilities and utility tariffs change. What is your district doing to ensure energy management plans are also being updated as those changes occur?

ENERGY STAR recognizes three Kentucky School Districts and KSBA as 2016 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year

The 2016 ENERGY STAR Award Winners were recognized in Washington, D.C. on April 13. Three Kentucky Districts and KSBA were among the award winners. They are featured below:



Kentucky School Boards Association Sustained Excellence

From left are Executive Director Mike Armstrong; Acting Director-Climate Protection Partnerships Jacob Moss; and SEMP Director Ron Willhite



Kenton County Schools Sustained Excellence

From left are Director of Support Services Rob Haney; Superintendent Terri Cox-Cruey; Director-Climate Protection Partnerships Division Carolyn Snyder; School Board Chairperson Karen Collins; and Energy Manager Chris Baker



Scott County Schools Sustained Excellence

From left are Energy Manager Jim McClanahan; Board Chairman Robert H. Conway; Director-Climate Protection Partnerships Division Carolyn Snyder; and Energy Committee Member Ron Willhite



Celebrating 100 percent ENERGY STAR Schools

Crittenden County Schools verified proof of energy efficiency

Over the past five years, Crittenden County Schools has kept a clear focus on energy efficiency. From board decisions regarding facility needs to maintenance strategies for equipment use/replacement, to involving students in the middle school as a student energy team, all efforts have led to a more energy-efficient district. That is now being recognized, as the district is now 100 percent ENERGY STAR Labeled Schools.

Superintendent Vince Clark compliments the Board of Education by saying, "members of our board have worked together to understand the business needs to make the best decisions for using all resources wisely."

Facilities Director Greg Binkley has been a leader in school facilities for a number of years. "During recent renovations, we have ensured use of the most current technologies in running our facilities. Updating our HVAC control system has allowed us to schedule our schools to 'unoccupied settings,' when school is not in use."

Binkley describes a maintenance decision made last year to purchase LEDs to replace T12 fixtures and wall packs: "It made sense to use the precious maintenance dollars wisely and upgrade to new technology!" he says.

Participation in SEMP encourages districts to identify ways to involve students in the process. Crittenden County Schools has made use of the classroom curriculum from the National Energy Education Development program. Supported by NEED



Celebrating the district 100 percent ENERGY STAR status are: Quinn Templeton, Benny Shirley, teacher Carol Davis, Natalie Hutchings, Kyonna Ross, and Chloe Weathers. All are members of the Crittenden County Middle School Energy Team.

Regional Coordinator Sue Parrent, CCMS eighth-grade science teacher Carol Davis has led the student energy team for three years. She says students now have a clearer understanding of how their actions impact the learning environment, as well as the reasons for making wise decisions on energy use.

Using a three-pronged approach of board decisions, maintenance strategies and student involvement, have led a district that was already energy efficient to being a 100 percent ENERGY STAR district!



Bullitt County Public Schools 2016 Partner of the Year

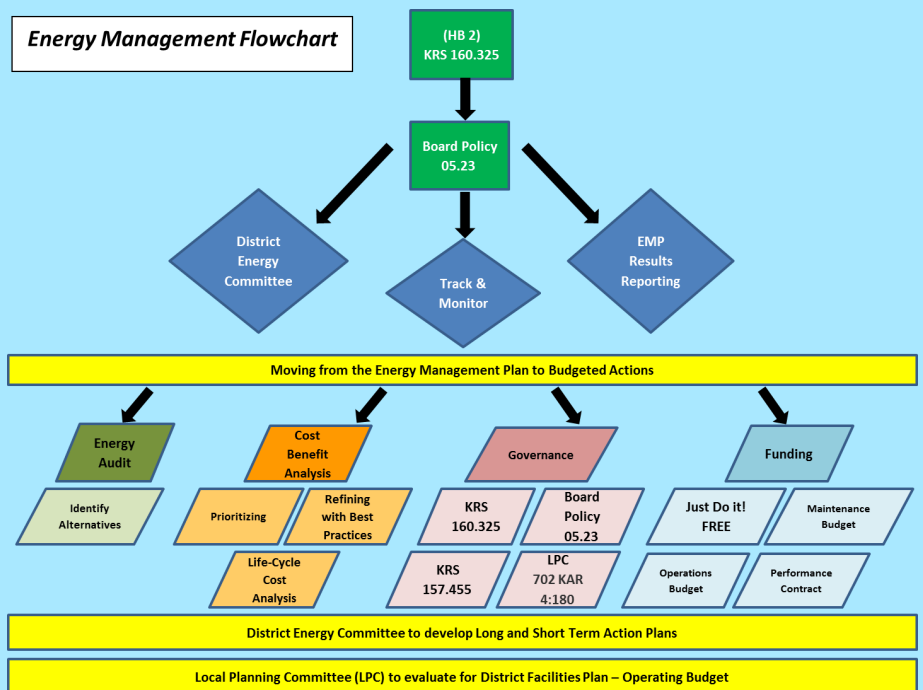
From left are: Acting Director-Climate Protection Partnerships Jacob Moss;
Energy Manager Kimberley Joseph; and
Superintendent Keith Davis



What is your district process for saving energy and dollars?

As districts continue to identify ways to reduce their budget, they should consider utility spending. A few common issues contribute to energy waste and unnecessary spending:

- Not changing filters of HVAC units.
- Not keeping someone in the district trained on use of the newer technologies installed in the newer schools.
- Not adjusting the automatic timers for outdoor lighting as the "time" changes.
- Allowing outside air units to run 24/7.
- Windows and doors left open, allowing unconditioned air into the building, thus heating/cooling the outdoors.
- Gym lighting being left on after school, and through the night.



To reduce waste, it is critical to implement an energy management plan and make changes as needed.

Jefferson County recognized by Louisville Energy Alliance First award given for Partner of the Year

The Louisville Energy Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that promotes energy efficiency and conservation in the River City, through ENERGY STAR programs and certifications. In 2009 the Alliance launched the Kilo-watt Crackdown to recognize the most efficient building in the area, as well as those making the greatest energy improvements.

Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) joined the competition the first year and has continued participation each year it was held. This year there was a special recognition as JCPS was awarded the first-ever Louisville Energy Alliance Partner of the Year Award.

The district tracks the energy usage of its 169 buildings in ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager, with 34 buildings currently being ENERGY STAR Labeled.



Pictured at left are JCPS Chief Operations Officer Dr. Michael Raisor, JCPS Energy Auditor Kevin Stoltz, JCPS Cane Run Elementary Principal Kimberly Coslow and JCPS Environmental Coordinator Joe Irwin.