

Let's Save Energy



School Energy Managers Project



March/April 2015

Teamwork leads Middlesboro to \$185,000 savings

The Middlesboro Independent school board took two steps in mid-2013 that have since resulted in the district saving \$185,000 in energy costs: the board hired a new superintendent and it joined the Knox County Energy Management Partnership.

Superintendent Steve Martin, whose goal is to work with "relentless dedication to motivate and inspire student success," recognized the importance of supporting energy-related initiatives as he began working with the regional partnership's certified energy manager, Chris Taylor.



Middlesboro Supt Steve Martin recognized opportunity for savings by supporting energy management efforts.

Because the district had Taylor's services an average of only five hours per week, he tried to identify the best use of his time. Since it would take an estimated two hours monthly just to track, review and report utilities, Taylor had even less time to assess the school buildings to look for potential energy projects.

With Taylor identifying a change in rates that saved the district \$34,000 since that time, the district realized immediate savings from joining the partnership. Meanwhile, he and Martin began working with others in the dis-

trict to create awareness and buy-in for saving energy.

Following Martin's lead, the district staff began working with Taylor to implement a tightly controlled HVAC schedule for all school breaks. Because of the attention given, the district has saved over \$151,000 in the past 20 months from a reduction in demand (kW) and consumption (kWh).

"It has truly been a team effort in our district," says Martin. "I have been impressed with their dedication to be efficient and to reduce our energy consumption."

As the district continues to support student success, its leaders have recognized that with some effort, the system can achieve energy savings while creating the best learning environment for students.

"The support leadership has given to improving the district Energy Utilization Index should be recognized," Taylor says. "As soon as the district understood the opportunity to save, energy management became a priority."

Working with five districts, CEM Chris Taylor works with district leadership to implement energy management efforts.



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2015 ENERGY STAR Partners of the Year include:

- Kenton County Schools
- Scott County Schools
- Kentucky School Boards Association–School Energy Managers Project

2015 Winter Regional Energy Training

The focus for the recent Regional Energy Training was to provide district facilities/energy leadership with an update on the current energy landscape and to review processes for successful energy management. Ninety-one attendees representing 104 districts came together in five regional meetings.

Emphasis was also placed on districts making use of utility rebates, which in the past year were being requested only by districts with a funded energy manager.

Attendees also learned more about new LED lighting technologies, giving them a better understanding of the options and important considerations as they continue to identify opportunities for energy saving projects.

Because HVAC typically uses between 50-60 percent of the energy used in a district, groups developed strategies for maximizing the existing controls in their district and developed plans to upgrade equipment as possible.

