

Let's Save Energy



School Energy Managers Project



May 2015

Energy as a priority for Owsley County Schools LPC

In 2011, Owsley County Schools had just finished a large project at Owsley County High School. The goal was to not only update the school with energy efficiency in mind, but to make it a model learning facility, with improved HVAC systems, an automated control system, and updated classroom/gymnasium lighting. A small project was also implemented at the elementary school, with the installation of T8 lighting in the gymnasium.

The first priority for 2012 in the district's plan was to replace all exit signs and emergency lighting with LED, which gave a quick payback of just a few months. In 2013, timers were installed and in 2014, high-efficiency water heaters were installed in the high school kitchen and gymnasium, along with needed insulation in the elementary school.

The Local Planning Committee's new five-year facilities plan, covering 2015-2020, calls for several additional energy projects and important facility upgrades. The future upgrades are possible with the savings the district has realized from its earlier planning, which produced a 23 percent reduction in the district's EUI.

"If not for the support from the board members and superintendent, our district would not have recognized the continued reduction in our utility budget," Mason says. "Being in a small district, the 10 percent reduction in our utility budget from last year is significant."



Preparing for an LPC meeting to discuss energy saving measures are: Dr. Tim Bobrowski, superintendent, Facilities Director Chad Mason and Finance Director Jerry McIntosh.

The district Energy Utilization Index (EUI) for FY 2010-11 was 73.6 kBtu/sf, which was well over the state average. Understanding the issue of rising utility rates and recognizing the opportunity to reduce energy consumption, Chad Mason, the district's director of Facilities and Transportation, saw the need to establish energy projects as a priority in the system's Facilities Plan. Superintendent Dr. Tim Bobrowski worked with Mason to educate school board members as to the need and opportunity.



OCES Principal Alan Taylor, left, and Dr. Tim Bobrowski work together with the facilitator during an LPC planning session.

EPA Honors two Kentucky School Districts and KSBA as 2015 Energy Star Partner of the Year

Kenton County School District | Fort Wright, Kentucky



Kenton County Schools officials receive the district's ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award; from left are Kenton County Schools Director of Support Services Rob Haney; district Energy Manager Chris Baker; school board Chairperson Karen Collins; Jean Lupinacci, director, Commercial & Industrial Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Kenton County Schools Superintendent Terri Cox-Cruey; and student intern Alex Marquardt.

Kenton County School District (KCSD) educates more than 14,000 students across 1.7 million square feet of space. The district continues to make great strides in energy efficiency through committing to ongoing energy management, investing in energy-efficient new construction, involving students in energy efficiency initiatives, and adopting new technology. Other school districts from across Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, and North Carolina have modeled their energy programs after KCSD's successful energy management approach, and many have adopted its E=WISE2 student program. KCSD is receiving *ENERGY STAR – Sustained Excellence* recognition for its significant commitment to building and operating energy-efficient schools and for using ENERGY STAR tools and resources as a central component of its energy program. Key 2014 accomplishments include:

- Building a near net zero school, which costs less to build than the national median at \$200 per square foot.
- Realizing more than \$1.4 million in avoided energy costs this year, and more than 6.8 million since 2005 by incorporating ENERGY STAR best practices into the district's behavioral management program.
- Promoting its participation with the ENERGY STAR program on the district's website, in presentations, at luncheons, and in published materials.
- Providing weekly performance reports and posting ENERGY STAR scores on the website and energy billboards in the schools. KCSD also provides monthly energy reports to the Board of Education.
- Earning ENERGY STAR certification for one more school, bringing the total number of ENERGY STAR certified schools to 12 out of 17 schools in the district.
- Assisting corporations in developing sustainability plans through the district's internship program. Alex Marquardt, a senior in Kenton County's Sustainable Energy Technology Engineering Academy, is working with JC Penney and New Energy Technology and using the skills he gained through KCSD's energy education programs to assist the company in achieving its energy goals through a lighting and HVAC audit project.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) honored 128 businesses and organizations in 33 states, including two school districts and KSBA-SEMP on April 20 in Washington, DC.

“Our Energy Star Partner of the Year award winners demonstrate that energy efficiency is a smart business decision that supports their bottom line, and helps their customers save money and energy,” said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

The following summarizes the recognition for the three awards:

Scott County Public Schools | Georgetown, Kentucky

Scott County Public Schools serves more than 9,000 students in 14 schools. The school district became an ENERGY STAR partner in 2010, and has since embraced ENERGY STAR tools to make major improvements in energy efficiency and costs for the district. Scott County Public Schools is receiving ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year recognition for its effective use of ENERGY STAR tools and resources in its energy management plan. Key 2014 accomplishments include:

- Earning ENERGY STAR certification for all school buildings in the district.
- Entering all schools in the district into the ENERGY STAR National Building Competition for three consecutive years.
- Improving its average, portfolio-wide 1 – 100 ENERGY STAR score from 71 to 88 compared to its 2010 baseline.

- Educating the School Board, administrators, teachers, maintenance, custodial and other support staff members and students on the financial and environmental benefits of energy management through in-person presentations and meetings.
- Presenting the value of ENERGY STAR to students.
- Reducing energy use by more than 17 percent compared to its 2010 baseline.
- Mentoring other school districts in implementing the ENERGY STAR Guidelines for Energy Management.

Scott County Schools Superintendent Patricia Putty (left) and Energy Manager Jim McClanahan (right) accept the ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award from Jean Lupinacci (center), director, Commercial & Industrial Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.





Kentucky School Boards Association | Frankfort, Kentucky

The Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) is a nonprofit corporation of school boards from each public school district in Kentucky, historically providing members governmental, board development, facility planning, legal, policy, and outreach services. Following the 2008 enactment of Kentucky Revenue Statute KRS160.325 directing local boards of education to address rising energy costs, KSBA created the School Energy Managers Project (SEMP) with the motto “dollars for students not energy.” In 2010, SEMP helped establish a state-wide energy management infrastructure to facilitate the implementation of energy efficiency projects in schools. KSBA is receiving ENERGY STAR recognition for its commitment to intelligent energy choices for new and existing public schools, in order to enhance both the environment and educational opportunities for the Commonwealth’s 645,000 public school students. Key 2014 accomplishments include:

- Assisting Kentucky school districts in formulating and implementing energy management plans using the seven-step ENERGY STAR Guidelines for Energy Management.
- Contributing to an increase in the number of ENERGY STAR certified schools in Kentucky from 12 to more than 265 since 2008, by helping fund and facilitate the inclusion of ENERGY STAR resources and tools in schools’ energy manager training.
- Participating in EPA’s ENERGY STAR National Building Competition with two school districts.
- Educating school board members, superintendents, and government officials and legislators throughout Kentucky on the importance of energy management through



KSBA Associate Executive Director David Baird accepts the ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award for the association’s School Energy Managers Project from Jean Lupinacci, director, Commercial & Industrial Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

presentations, newsletters, and meetings.

Committing more than 70 school districts to using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to benchmark energy data.

Achieving more than \$48 million in avoided energy costs, and reducing electricity usage across the state by more than 339 million kWh since 2010.