GET Schooled On Energy

The Egg Harbor Township School District (EHT) has developed an innovative program to reduce energy usage throughout its ten schools. The District won 8 ENERGY STAR awards from the EPA as well as the 1st Leadership Award by the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program in 2015, for its sustainability efforts. In 2017, the District reduced its energy costs by almost 40% saving over $9 million dollars. These successes can be attributed to integrative actions towards energy conservation.

In its efforts the school has enacted a policy for students and faculty to conserve energy as well as measures to foster energy independence. The District utilizes heating and cooling processes that take advantage of unoccupied hours and seasonal changes, protocols for staff and students to reduce wasted energy, and solar arrays to self generate renewable energy.

The District Energy Manager, Shawn P. Braue, a USAF veteran, has led the energy program. Braue has helped the District release an Energy Program Handbook to support staff and teachers which outlines the actions necessary to conserve energy in schools. Strategies adopted by the District can be applicable to other communities in New Jersey and municipalities to improve energy sustainability across the state.

Learn more at http://www.eht.k12.nj.us/district_services/energy_program

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EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Location
Atlantic County, NJ

Students 7,724
Teachers 605
Student/Teacher Ratio 12.75

2014-2015 school year data

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2017 Annual Energy Stats

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Expected Energy Cost
$23,162,226

Actual Energy Cost
$14,062,129

Program Savings
$9,100,097

Percent Savings 39.3%
Conscious Heating & Cooling Methods

Comfort & Sustainability: The EHT District utilizes tested and proven temperature standards in order to heat and cool spaces to their ideal comfort levels. Staff and students are advised to wear sweaters so that they can be comfortable while also saving heat in order to stay within temperature standards during the heating season.

Occupied and Unoccupied Times: A lot of energy is wasted by heating and cooling rooms when they are not occupied. The heating and cooling systems of schools in the EHT District operate differently based off occupied and unoccupied timeframes. During occupied times, heating and cooling (H/C) systems operate to meet tested standards. When unoccupied, the schools are allowed to reach 55 degrees F during the winter and 85 degrees during the summer.

EHT's School Energy Policy

The EHT School District Energy Policy is a way for faculty to become involved in making a difference in energy consumption at their schools. Faculty members are asked to shut off anything that requires energy in their classrooms whenever they are out. This conserves the energy used to power unused appliances, lights, or other devices. The policy is an example of an initiative that can be implemented in many settings to save energy.

EHT Faculty Energy Conservation Checklist

- Is my TV, DVD, Radio, Computer, Computer Monitor, Printer, Scanner, Copier, Smartboards, Speakers, Etc. OFF?
- If I have power strips I can turn off, are they turned OFF?
- Are the lights and other lamps OFF?
- Is my door closed and /or locked if needed?
EHT School District’s Solar Arrays

8 Schools within the EHT School District feature Solar Panels

In August 2017, EHT’s solar panels saved energy and emissions equal to:

- Energy to power 362,236 days of TV use
- Emissions from 378 years of the average car use

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School Energy Use Facts

**Fact #1:** The Department of Energy has estimated that 25% to 30% of the total energy used in public schools within the U.S. is wasted.

**Fact #2:** The simple act of turning off the lights in one classroom for just one hour prevents two pounds of pollutants from entering the environment.

**Fact #3:** Some schools such as the Albuquerque Public School District have declared that they spend more money on electricity in their schools than educational materials.