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**TRC's support of NYSERDA's Energy Smart Schools Program has helped lower energy use in New York State schools by an average of 19% across 140 school districts. The program has served more than 25% of eligible public schools in the state attended by over 350,000 students.**

### Project Scope

In the public education sector, limited budgets often prevent schools from investing in money-saving upgrades. NYSERDA has targeted K-12 schools with the **Energy Smart Schools Program** to break this cycle through energy efficiency. TRC addresses energy needs in New York State schools through comprehensive and specialized energy management. They also work with school boards and administrators, and train hundreds of building engineers on how to improve, maintain, and grow energy efficiency savings in their facilities.

### Project Summary

The **Energy Smart Schools Program** provides training, technical and tracking support, benchmarking assistance, and a variety of specialized modeling tools developed for New York's K-12 schools. Energy savings help the environment through reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and schools can focus more of their limited budgets on better quality education.

- **Energy Savings**

New York State schools have substantially decreased their average energy use despite a rise in computers and air conditioned space. Since the program began, participating school districts have reduced site energy from 91 kBtu/sq.ft to 73 kBtu/sq.ft. For an average 100,000 square foot school, this represents \$3,800 savings per year — every year!

- **Financial Return**

The program brings school districts an immediate return on energy bills, and helps instill an energy culture to promote long-term energy efficiency and savings. Less money spent on energy means more resources to benefit students.

- **Other Benefits**

Participation provides schools with a strong energy management plan and maintenance support along with utility tracking, data analysis, and benchmarking resources. The program has helped 92 New York K-12 school buildings become eligible for the ENERGY STAR.

### Monitoring & Verifying Energy Savings

The **Energy Smart Schools Program** benchmarks a school's energy use based upon actual utility bills, eliminating potential inaccuracies of mathematical models. Modeling tools to promote energy use planning and reporting to the state, fuel-switching, and plug load capacity have also been developed and delivered.

### Distinguishing Value

School districts receive an immediate financial return thanks to utility cost savings from lower energy use, and gradually build the resources necessary for other energy and cost savings initiatives. These successes have not gone unnoticed. In addition to already earning the ENERGY STAR on 22 buildings with dozens more recently qualified, as well as eight District-level ENERGY STAR Leader Awards, the **Energy Smart Schools Program** was nationally recognized by the American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy's 2007 "Exemplary Program" award.