

K-12 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

In the U.S., K-12 school districts spend \$8 billion annually on energy to operate and maintain their buildings and learning facilities. Energy is an expense schools can reduce to free up educational resources. Energy efficiency offers the potential to redirect significant savings back to educating students while establishing a safe, healthy, and productive environment for learning. Energy also offers a unique opportunity to serve as a living laboratory for students to understand and benefit first-hand from new technologies and problem-based learning.

Overview

The Better Buildings Challenge is a voluntary leadership initiative with the goal of making commercial, public, industrial, and residential buildings at least 20 percent more energy efficient over 10 years. By improving the efficiency of these buildings by 20 percent our nation would save \$80 billion annually in energy costs. A variety of public and private sector organizations nationwide are partnering with the Energy Department to track and reduce energy and water consumption, and share real solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and save money.

K-12 Partner Solutions

Better Buildings Challenge K-12 partners share details of successful projects achieving comprehensive energy and cost savings. These solutions for overcoming common energy efficiency barriers are shared publicly on the [Better Buildings Solution Center](#).

- ▶ **Poudre School District's** "Creating A Culture of Energy Efficiency" garnered communitywide support for renovations of its school facilities resulting in the passage of a \$120 million bond to fund infrastructure improvements over an eight year period, including energy and water efficiency renovation projects with expected savings of \$400,000 annually.
- ▶ **Dysart Unified School District** implemented an energy savings performance contract at Kingswood Elementary School to maximize opportunities for high-efficiency technology upgrades and energy cost saving strategies. The project achieved an annual energy savings of 16% and cost savings of \$44,000. Read our [press release](#) recognizing their efforts.
- ▶ **Camas School District** selected the J.D. Zellerbach Administration Headquarters to undergo an energy efficiency renovation. Energy efficiency measures were completed in four campus buildings and resulted in energy savings of 20% and cost savings of \$10,000.

Contact Us

For more information on opportunities for K-12 school districts to participate in the Better Buildings Challenge, please contact Crystal McDonald, K-12 Sector Lead, Crystal.McDonald@EE.Doe.Gov.

Energy Efficiency Tools and Resources

- ▶ Browse the [Better Buildings Solutions Center](#) to find successful models and strategies to help your district practice energy management
- ▶ Look over the 2015 Better Buildings Summit presentation of K-12 tools and resources [K-12 Partner Meeting: Including K-12 School Districts in the Clean Energy Equation](#)
- ▶ Explore financing options in this energy efficiency investment guide [Financing Energy Upgrades for K-12 School Districts](#)
- ▶ Gain technical and strategic support on lighting efficiency improvements [Interior Lighting Campaign](#)
[Lighting Energy Efficiency in Parking](#)
- ▶ Build expertise by training and developing your workforce [Better Buildings Workforce Guidelines](#)
[Buildings Re-tuning Training](#)
- ▶ Learn more about benchmarking buildings with these webinars [Energy Data Collection and Tracking for Internal Benchmarking and Energy Management: Best Practices from State and Local Governments and School Districts](#)
[Benchmarking Data Cleansing: A Rite of Passage Along the Benchmarking Journey](#)
- ▶ Connect with other Energy Department [Education Initiatives](#) for resources on starting an energy program for your schools