

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% more energy-efficient over 10 years. Partners in the program are on track to meet their energy reduction goals, saving more than 2% each year on average and \$1.9 billion since the start of the program. More than 345 public and private sector organizations nationwide are partnering with DOE 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](#).

- ▶ **Douglas County School District's** "A Lesson Plan in K-12 Financing" presents a multi-pronged funding approach to address failing and inefficient maintenance of aging buildings. The \$5.1 million project combined an ESPC with grants and bonds, paying for itself through \$456,000 in guaranteed annual cost savings.
- ▶ **Los Angeles Unified School District** completed the renovation of one of its high schools, Santee Education Complex, making upgrades to lighting, boilers, and the EMS. Additional measures included occupancy sensors and retro-commissioning the domestic hot water pumps. The project is expected to achieve a 25% energy savings and \$143,000 annual cost savings.
- ▶ **Portland Public Schools** expects a 48% energy savings and \$22,000 in annual cost savings after its retrofit of Marysville Elementary School, one of 90 in the district. The project included a retrofit of the HVAC system, building controls, and lighting systems.

Contact Us

For more information on opportunities for K-12 school districts to participate in the Better Buildings Challenge, please contact Brooke Holleman, K-12 Sector Lead, Brooke.Holleman@ee.DOE.gov.

Energy Efficiency Tools and Resources

- ▶ Browse the [Better Buildings Solution Center](#) to find successful models and strategies to help your district practice energy management
- ▶ Look over the 2017 Better Buildings Summit presentation of K-12 tools and resources from the [K-12 School Districts Meet Up: Energy Smart Schools](#)
- ▶ Navigate performance contracting benefits in the [ESPC Primer for K-12 Schools](#)
- ▶ Learn about alternative transportation in the [K-12 Cohort Call: Transportation Fleet Conversion](#)
- ▶ Build expertise by training and developing your workforce [Better Buildings Workforce Guidelines Buildings Re-tuning Training](#)
- ▶ Learn more about Zero Energy Schools in [EE+RE=ZE: Zero Energy Buildings for Schools](#)
- ▶ Discover innovative policy and management solutions in the [K-12 Solutions for Building Energy Excellence Toolkit](#)
- ▶ Connect with other [DOE Education Initiatives](#) for resources on starting an energy program for your schools

Communication Channels

Below is a list of K-12 school organizations and newsletters which share energy efficiency success stories of our partners:

- Green Schools National Network's [Green Schools Catalyst Quarterly](#)
- U.S. Department of Education's [Green Ribbon Schools](#) and [Green Strides](#)
- APPA's [Facilities Manager Magazine](#)
- USGBC's Center for Green Schools <https://www.centerforgreenschools.org/>
- U.S. Department of Energy's [Education Resources](#) and [STEM Rising newsletter](#)
- U.S. Department of Energy's [State and Local Solutions Center](#)
- [Better Buildings Beat Blog](#)