THREE SMART WAYS TO IMPROVE ENERGY MANAGEMENT IN YOUR DISTRICT

OPTIMIZE / INVEST / EDUCATE
Are you controlling the energy systems across your schools— or are they running out of control? Chances are, like many U.S. school districts, you’re struggling to manage your energy usage and costs. School administrators face a range of energy management challenges, including aging buildings and infrastructure, a backlog of deferred maintenance projects, limited capital and operational funds, and a lack of expertise in their facility organization.

But forgetting about energy management compounds the problems. Aging systems waste energy and money. Ongoing maintenance of outdated energy systems keeps crews overburdened. Limited capital constrains your ability to implement energy-saving solutions. A lack of energy-saving policies sends thousands of dollars down the drain.
Overcoming your energy-management challenges is critical—both for your schools and for the environment. However, there are smart ways out of the energy—and money-wasting trap—including optimizing current energy systems, investing the savings in new equipment and educating students, teachers, and maintenance crews on smarter energy-use practices. Launching strategic energy-saving programs that leverage these three opportunities can help your district save money, improve building comfort levels and boost your public image.
Right now, it’s likely that energy in your district is being wasted in a number of ways. A common example is running AC, heat and lighting in buildings that are partially occupied or closed. The result is a significant waste of energy and money. In fact, a typical 50,000-square-foot classroom building uses more than $100,000 worth of energy each year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. By implementing cost-effective energy-efficiency measures, many districts could cut their energy bills by 30 percent or more.

Achieving this savings requires optimization. This means using existing energy equipment more efficiently in ways that lower energy spending without investing in new equipment.

**SOME EXAMPLES INCLUDE:**

- Setting back or turning off energy systems in buildings when not in use
- Cleaning condenser coils
- Changing filters
- Efficient staging of chillers and boilers
- Checking ventilation system economizers
- Completing regular equipment maintenance and periodic tune-ups
- Commissioning systems to ensure they are operating at peak efficiencies

Optimizing your current energy equipment begins with creating a strategic plan that identifies every opportunity to eliminate waste and maximize savings, then implementing that plan district-wide.

Like many districts, Lewisville Independent School District in Texas was faced with shrinking budgets and statewide energy mandates. Aramark was engaged to deliver a Utility Management Program that met state goals and reduced expenses. The program was comprehensive in nature, focusing on operating efficiencies, equipment scheduling, relamping and lighting rebates, billing practice review, and development of energy policies and standards.

The results have been dramatic. Reconversion of a middle school reduced energy consumption by 46%. Improved scheduling of after-hour events resulted in $72,000 in annual savings. A wireless thermostat project provided a payback in just seven months. Upgraded energy management software realized $65,000 in annual savings. Overall, the program has reduced district energy consumption by 18.9%, accumulated $12.9 million in savings, and secured an Energy Star Achievement score of 93, placing LISD in the top 7% of school districts for energy conservation.
Many districts continue to rely on equipment that has far surpassed its expected life span. Operating aged equipment results in both increased energy and maintenance costs. At this stage, not only is an investment in new equipment worth the exposure, but also the resulting energy and maintenance cost savings can offset all or a portion of the replacement cost of the new equipment.

**HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF ENERGY-SAVING INVESTMENTS:**

- A high-efficiency packaged HVAC unit can reduce cooling energy consumption by 10 percent or more over a standard-efficiency, commercial packaged unit.

- A demand-controlled ventilation system saves energy by decreasing the amount of ventilation supplied by the HVAC system during low-occupancy hours.

- Cool roofs can often reduce peak cooling demand by 10 to 15 percent.

Faced with rising utility costs, antiquated systems, and extensive deferred maintenance, the City of Manchester, NH opted to invest in its city building’s energy system and infrastructure. Enhancements included new boilers at the City Hall and Central Library, upgrades to the building automation system, and securing both utility and pay for performance rebates. A total of over 130 individual energy conservation measures were implemented over an 18-month span. With annual energy savings nearing $900,000, the City attained an ROI of over 30% on the funds it invested in Aramark’s Energy Program. Additionally, the number of Manchester schools achieving the EPA’s Energy Star rating increased from one to sixteen.
EducatE

Promote Energy Savings District-wide

Upholding energy goals takes a village—faculty, students and the whole facility management team must all pitch in to realize district-wide energy savings. The best way to educate and inspire their cooperation is by launching an energy awareness program that encourages individual and group action.

East Baton Rouge Parish School in Louisiana partnered with Aramark Engineering Solutions to develop and implement an energy management program around high-return energy projects while also improving aging infrastructure. A component of the program consisted of energy education of faculty, students, and operations personnel toward personal energy behavior change. Elements of this program included energy conservation awareness activities, such as Energy Awareness Month presentations to students and staff, Earth Day displays and contests, and a traveling Energy-Efficient House display to promote energy-efficient practices to the greater community. An energy committee was organized to develop a standard energy policy and promote energy conservation awareness throughout the District. Operating procedures and standards for efficient building operation were developed, and incorporated into ongoing training classes for custodians and maintenance personnel.

The District has achieved more than 31% annual reduction in energy. Additionally, EBR’s Clairborne Elementary School was the 2013 winner of the EPA “Battle of the Buildings” national building competition after reducing its energy consumption by 46%.
HOW WILL YOU TAKE BACK CONTROL OF YOUR DISTRICT’S ENERGY CONSUMPTION?

In the mentioned examples, each district was able to apply realized savings to address deferred maintenance and infrastructure repairs. Although their strategies may differ, the results are compelling. Each benefitted from a program uniquely designed to meet their organizational goals, funding challenges, and strategic priorities.

What energy-saving measures will help your district reach its energy goals—Optimizing, Investing or Educating? Aramark can help you find the best combination of energy-saving strategies to meet your district’s goals, budget and needs. Our unique blend of energy-saving innovation, expertise and dedication has made us the preferred partner for outsourced district facility support for decades.

To help you take control of your energy management, we work closely with your administration and facility management team to both understand your needs and opportunities to launch energy-saving programs. Our services cover the complete energy-saving spectrum—from conducting energy usage analysis, to recommending optimization tactics and new equipment investments, to supporting educational programs to inspire smarter energy use across your district. Our efforts consistently result in optimally managed energy systems and significantly greater cost savings.

For more information on how Aramark can help your district develop an energy management strategy, contact us today.

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