

GOVERNOR'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY RECOGNITION

Olathe USD

(Dr. Pat All, Superintendent of Schools; Bob Courtney)

The Olathe School District's Energy Program began 15 years ago. During that time, the amount of conditioned space increased by 100% (from 2 million square feet to 4 million square feet) as they added 21 new buildings plus additions to existing buildings.

However, their electrical consumption has only increased 45% and their natural gas consumption has increased by only 2% during this same time period. Their energy reduction impact is equal to removing 39,000 cars from the road or planting over 81,000 acres of trees.

Their energy program includes

- Random building audits
- Detailed tracking of energy consumption based on Board of Education guidelines
- Monitoring of equipment efficiency
- Retrofit upgrades for existing buildings that have low energy efficiency
- Efficient design for new buildings
- Verification of utility bills for accuracy
- Energy education for students and staff

The Olathe School District participates in a transport gas consortium which they helped initiate. They constantly research renewable energy applications including a recently completed solar and wind project.

Within the last 3 months, this school district was notified that **5** of their buildings received the **Energy Star Award** from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for demonstrating superior energy performance.