

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 22, 2005



Parkside Elementary School To Receive EPA's ENERGY STAR® Label

November 22, 2005, Buffalo, MN - Parkside Elementary School has qualified for an ENERGY STAR Label from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Qualifying for an ENERGY STAR Label means that the school ranks in the top 25% in the nation for efficient facility operations. Parkside is the 23rd school in Minnesota to receive this award. ENERGY STAR is an international symbol of energy efficiency, so by earning the ENERGY STAR, Parkside Elementary will be distinguished as one of top performing buildings in the country.

The award will be formally presented to Principal Rob Nudell on **Friday, December 2nd** at 2:45 in the gymnasium.



Factors for consideration for this national ranking are the energy performance rating, actual annual energy intensity per square foot, and the improvement from the facility baseline period.

Parkside Elementary School achieved this award as part of the Schools for Energy Efficiency (SEE) Program, a partnership with Hallberg Engineering, Inc. to reduce energy waste and energy related expenses for schools in Minnesota by using low and no cost strategies. By focusing on reducing energy use during unoccupied times, posting an awareness campaign, and communicating energy-saving tips to staff and students the district is seeing results. The goal is to reduce district annual energy use by 10%. In the first three quarters of the program, ISD 877 has reduced their energy use 9%, resulting in avoided utility costs of \$38,000.

"Parkside Elementary is setting a positive example as the first school in the district to reach this goal," Superintendent Dr. Jim Bauck "We are proud to be recognized as an environmentally conscious school, and proud of the enthusiastic response of our students and staff in making that possible."

It is interesting to note that least efficient schools use three times more energy than the best energy performers. And for schools that have achieved the ENERGY STAR status, there is also a significant cost savings associated; in fact, top performing ENERGY STAR labeled schools cost forty cents per square foot less to operate than the average performers.

ENERGY STAR is a government-backed program helping businesses and individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. Parkside Elementary has made an environmental impact so far by reducing 221,816 lbs. of greenhouse gases (CO₂) – this equates to removing 22 passenger cars from the road or powering 13 households for one year.

For more information visit the ENERGY STAR website www.energystar.gov or Schools for Energy Efficiency website, www.seeprograms.com.