

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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South Washington County School District 833 Receives EPA's ENERGY STAR® Leader Award

District recognized for commitment to energy efficiency, environmental protection

Woodbury, MN - South Washington County School District 833 has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an ENERGY STAR Leader based on its demonstration of continuous improvement in energy efficiency district-wide. These improvements have resulted in over \$400,000 in avoided energy costs and a significant impact on the local environment.

The award was formally presented by Audrie Washington, ENERGY STAR Regional Program Manager, to ISD 833 Superintendent of Schools Mr. Tom Nelson on **Monday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m.** at Liberty Ridge Elementary School in Woodbury, MN. In attendance was Senator Brian LeClair, Representative Mike Charron, Edward Garvey -Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Commerce, William Hargis -Mayor of Woodbury and several district employees and students.



The district achieved this national 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. Built on the commitment of the superintendent, school board, a devoted full-time coordinator, and an involved staff and student community, ISD 833 reduced their energy use 12 percent during the last year. Major projects included a focus on reducing energy use during after school hours, holiday shutdowns, awareness campaigns, and training staff from operations to food services. The district's three new school buildings, designed with energy efficiency in mind, also played a significant part in the district becoming an ENERGY STAR Leader.

"What the South Washington County School District has done is equivalent to taking 1,203 passenger cars off the road or providing electricity to 714 households for one year," said Audrie Washington, ENERGY STAR Regional Program Manager. "As only the eleventh school

district in the Nation to achieve this status, this district shows a strong connection between superior energy management, environmental stewardship, and financial savings.”

With energy costs rising, energy efficiency has become a more important part of operating a successful school district. The money the district has saved is equivalent to the salaries of 11 entry-level teachers. District taxpayers will benefit from the savings realized by the efficiency work, but more importantly, the students have been given a tremendous hands-on opportunity to learn about and practice energy efficiency in their schools.

“Our energy conservation makes good sense both environmentally and financially,” said Superintendent Tom Nelson. “We are proud to be recognized as an environmentally conscious school district, and proud of the enthusiastic response of our students and staff in making that possible.”

Energy efficiency messages reach the classrooms through visits from the Alliance to Save Energy’s Energy Hog mascot and State Energy Office’s Energy Bike activities. Students also help contribute to district energy savings through SEE Energy Squads that volunteer to help monitor behavior by leaving friendly reminders to those who forget to shut off their lights when they leave the room or thank you’s to those who remembered to turn off their computer monitor.

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

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