

## NEWS RELEASE

### School Energy Program Honored by Governor for Pollution Prevention *Schools for Energy Efficiency® program provides a plan for K-12 schools to save energy, money, and the environment.*

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(February 27, 2008)--Minnesota school districts saw the influence of energy conservation before it was trendy to be 'green' with the guidance of the Schools for Energy Efficiency® (SEE) program who will be honored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as a recipient of the **2008 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Waste and Pollution Prevention** on **Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**.

Several school districts in Minnesota have achieved nationally recognized results through participation in SEE, which is a comprehensive energy-saving program customized for K-12 schools that focuses on changing behavior throughout a school district using a team-based approach. Through the SEE program schools simultaneously educate the operations staff, faculty and students on low and no-cost energy-reducing strategies and create awareness through campaigns and activities.

The annual Governor's Awards honor superior environmental achievement by organizations that focus on preserving the environment through innovative practices that prevent pollution and waste, improve resource efficiency, and lead to sustainability. The award will be presented during a luncheon ceremony at the **Minnesota Air, Water, and Waste Environmental Conference** at the Sheraton Hotel in **Bloomington, MN**.

In less than five years the SEE program has expanded into 400 schools. Of the schools reporting current results, the average energy savings is 10-20 percent and in total they have avoided over \$10 million in energy costs in only four years. More than 100 SEE school facilities have qualified for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR® Labels, ranking these facilities in the top 25 percent in the nation for efficient operations. In addition 13 SEE school districts, out of only 32 in the nation, have received ENERGY STAR Leader awards for continuous improvement in energy efficiency. The environmental impact of these energy savings is a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by **845 million pounds of CO<sup>2</sup>** (the same amount of carbon dioxide as 82,968 passenger cars emit in a year, or 49,206 households using electricity emit in a year, or 319,428 acres of pine forest store in one year).

Schools for Energy Efficiency was also recently recognized in Chicago by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance as an example for the region with the **2008 Inspiring Efficiency Education Award** and was named **2007 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year**, a national award for organizations who've made outstanding contributions to environmental protection.

The SEE program was developed in 2002 by Hallberg Engineering, a mechanical and electrical engineering firm with over 25 years experience serving school districts. SEE was created in response to client's needs for a flexible, self-implemented plan that would help them achieve immediate savings in energy usage and create a culture of energy efficiency. The SEE program is available nationwide, for more information visit [www.seeprograms.com](http://www.seeprograms.com).



*The SEE staff pictured from left to right are: Tiffany Cavegn, Christie Rosckes, Karen Mann, Doug Kamuth, Joe Hallberg (President), Brent Bavin, Judy Weiler, Becky Sass.*