

Schools in Fort Collins, Colorado Earn ENERGY STAR® Labels

Often called “The Choice City,” Fort Collins offers a unique blend of natural beauty, cultural and recreational opportunities, and a strong commitment to the environment. The city has many programs, from pollution prevention to wildlife habitat protection, that enhance its environment. Poudre School District (PSD), in particular, has committed itself to preventing pollution and protecting the District’s natural heritage through environmental improvement.

PSD, encompassing 42 schools, has been affiliated with Rebuild America through the state partnership, Rebuild Colorado, and has recently become its own partnership. Because of its long history of efficiency and conservation in the District, four of Poudre’s schools received the ENERGY STAR label for schools in November 2000.

Schools Achieve Excellence

The four elementary schools that received the ENERGY STAR label for schools are Harris Bilingual, Olander, Washington, and Werner. The energy-efficiency methods that were utilized in these schools include: the conversion of old steam heating systems to modern hot water heating systems; replacing natural gas steam heating with heat registers; the installation of new energy-efficient doors and operable windows with automatic motorized shades; the extensive application of energy-efficient glazing in all classrooms; the installation of high-efficiency fluorescent lighting with dimming systems; and the enhancement of the

original daylighting design with high ceilings and operable windows. The outstanding performance of these four schools is the result of a combination of innovative design, integrated systems and the staff’s dedication to saving energy.



Representative from the award winning schools (from L-R: Dave Benson, Bill Chenoweth, Jim Lofink and Larry Slocum) show off their Energy Star labels.

The ENERGY STAR Benchmarking Tool

ENERGY STAR offers the only national rating system for energy performance in buildings. The rating system is based on a benchmarking tool that measures and scores a building’s energy performance compared to other schools or office buildings nationwide. The ENERGY STAR label on schools signifies a top performer—one that has achieved energy excellence. Through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), development of the on-line building benchmarking tool, buildings of all types are able to utilize this method of measuring a building’s energy performance.

PARTNERSHIP FACTS:

- **Total Square Footage Area Committed:**
3.2 million square feet
- **Total Estimated Cost Savings:**
\$767,587 year to date
Since 1994, \$200,00 in ongoing annual savings
- **New and Notable Innovations:**
Poudre School District is among the first school district in the nation to establish guidelines for a sustainable design for construction of new schools

Sustainable Design

An innovative process called “sustainable design” assures that Poudre’s buildings will be more environmentally friendly, energy efficient, health conscious, easily maintainable while supporting environmental curricula. Sustainable design meets the needs of the present without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs through the use of renewable materials.



Installation of Daylighting at Werner Elementary School is just one of the many projects throughout the district.

Working hand-in-hand with community and regional partners for more than a year, PSD’s Sustainable Design Committee developed a comprehensive set of sustainable design guidelines. “We’ve used these guidelines to challenge the design community to help us build the best school facilities possible—schools that provide a superior learning environment for kids and is friendly to the environment,” states Dr. Don Unger, Superintendent of PSD.

“Sustainable design for our new schools is an example of Poudre School District’s

commitment to being a responsible steward of our natural resources.” says Dr. Unger.

True Community Collaboration

Poudre School District demonstrated their commitment to energy efficiency long ago when it established a position for an Energy Manager. Stu Reeve, Energy and Technical Systems Manager, has helped the district reduce its energy costs by replacing outdated equipment with high-efficiency systems, ensuring economic viability. DOE and EPA worked together to help the district apply for ENERGY STAR labels for the high performers. Both Rebuild America and its ENERGY STAR program have worked to gain recognition and develop local champions in energy efficiency.

Linda Smith, Program Manager of Rebuild Colorado, stated, “This district is truly a leader in Colorado, demonstrating the result of a long-lasting and steady commitment to energy efficiency.”

Forward Thinkers in Energy Efficiency

The District believes that by working together in an integrated approach, they can build higher-performance schools that provide a superior learning environment, while reducing life cycle costs through conservation of energy and natural resources. While recognizing that sustainable design requires a fundamental shift from certain aspects of conventional design and construction, the District stands committed to their ideals and is confident they will yield positive outcomes for their students and the greater community.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POUDE SCHOOL DISTRICT, CONTACT:

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Visit the Rebuild America Web site at: www.rebuild.org
Or call the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse at: 1-800-DOE-3732