

Kingston, New York Targets Schools

Everything the **Kingston School District** in Kingston, New York, does to conserve energy resources is its legacy for the future.

Superintendent Arthur Stellar explains, "Dollars saved now and in the decades to come will keep tax increases down and free up funds to plow back into educational programs." Stellar kicked off Kingston's energy management program in December 1997 when his district became one of the first in the state to hire an energy manager.

The result of having Energy Manager Bob Cunningham teach staff and students to conserve energy is that in the past 12 months the district has used 1.3 million kilowatt per hour (kwh) less than in the years before it started its energy management program. That reduction in kwh, says Cunningham, "has obviously resulted in a serious reduction in pollution." Cunningham says the district began its partnership with Rebuild America in February 1998 with the goal of helping the district improve the energy efficiency of its 17 buildings - three of which were built in the 1870's.

The partnership has given Cunningham an awareness of what is going on in other school districts and he expects to do more networking in the future. Kingston, which has combined traditional hardware and people-oriented approaches to energy management, has much to share.

Here is some of what this district has done:

- Educated district personnel to shut down lights and set back heat during unoccupied periods
- Pursued a repair and upgrade program for all energy systems through the New York Power Authority at no capital expense to the district
- Utilized the advantages of a dual-fired heating system for a cost savings each year of up to 35 percent
- Installed outside air resets to save up to 20 percent on fuel use each year.

No reduction in energy should ever be overlooked. By removing light bulbs on campus vending machines, for example, the district will yield an annual savings of \$1,750. Says Cunningham, "The smallest savings over a sustained period really leads to dollars saved."

According to District Business Manager Philip J. Sinagra, energy steps taken have reduced the district's peak utility expenditure of \$1.4 million per year to its current level of spending, which is \$700,000 to \$800,000 per year. The bottom line, one that factors in weather and fluctuating fuel prices, since Kingston's energy management program was launched 19 months ago, is a realized cost avoidance of \$376,000.