

Kingston Schools Poised For Improvements

Working with the New York Power Authority (NYPA), the **Kingston School District** (NY) partnership has put together a \$6.9 million energy saving program to upgrade lighting, heating and other systems throughout its schools.

Because the project will be designed, constructed and financed through the NYPA's Energy Services Program -- up and running for the past year -- taxpayers will bear no upfront costs.

"They say you can't get something for nothing, but with the cost of energy savings these days, and the new, energy-efficient equipment available, it all works out," says **Philip J. Sinagra**, Kingston School District assistant to the

superintendent for business. Sinagra says NYPA stands behind the program as part of its mandate to lower government and institutional energy use throughout New York State.

The retrofits will transform the school district into a state-of-the-art model of energy efficiency, according to NYPA Senior Vice President **Robert L. Tscherne**.

The school district obtained funding for this project from several sources including a \$1 million grant from the Petroleum Overcharge Restitution Fund that State Senator **William Larkin's** office and the NYPA helped secure. The district procured another \$50,000 grant through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. The New York State Education Department aid will pay for approximately 57 percent of the project costs. The remainder will be paid with energy savings generated by the new equipment over a 10-year period. District Energy Manager **Bob Cunningham** estimates that the school district will save approximately \$325,000 in energy costs.

As part of NYPA's plan -- which will take about 18 months to complete -- lighting throughout the entire district will be upgraded to a higher quality light that lasts longer and is far cheaper to operate than the 96-watt fluorescent fixtures currently in use. State-of-the-art "pulse" boilers will replace four heating plants and the remaining heating equipment will be refurbished. Computerized energy management systems will be installed at all schools and windows will be replaced at

three schools.

Kingston will be fulfilling Rebuild America's mission to help



Building engineer works on an energy-efficient boiler at Chambers Elementary School in Ulster, NY.

communities keep local dollars at home. Contractors for this project live in New York State and the pulse boilers and lighting purchased were manufactured in the state. Energy savings have become one of the school district's legacies for the future.

"Dollars saved now and in the decades to come will keep tax increases down," says Kingston School District Superintendent **Arthur Stellar**. "This will free up funds to plow back into educational programs and help us maintain our commitment to managing our energy resources wisely."