

Rebuild America EnergySmart Schools Success Stories highlight schools and school districts that are making smart choices about energy, reducing energy and raising awareness of energy issues.

- New Building Design
- Existing Building Improvement
- Operation and Maintenance
- Renewable Energy Technologies
- Financing Building Improvements
- Energy Education



## Pasco County Schools

### *Improving Buildings and Raising Awareness to Save Energy*

Since the early 1990s, when Pasco County Schools undertook the effort to cut its energy budget dramatically, the school district has been committed to achieving savings through a combination of conservation, education and the replacement of old, inefficient equipment. The district, located on the Gulf Coast of Florida just north of Tampa, serves more than 50,000 students in 58 schools.

#### The Challenge

Pasco County Schools kept experiencing escalating energy costs - over 5 percent increases each year. The monthly power bill could run as high as \$15,000 per month in some schools. Electricity costs for the district's schools in the 1992-93 school year were \$3.8 million. School administrators and other school officials raised concern about these rising energy costs.

#### The Solution

In response to growing concerns, the superintendent and school board decided to write and adopt a formal policy of energy management and established a 17-member District Energy Committee. The District Energy Committee implemented a variety of activities, including retrofits, waste reduction, education and reporting/monitoring to address specific areas that needed improvement. The committee incorporates both behavioral modification and energy-efficiency projects.

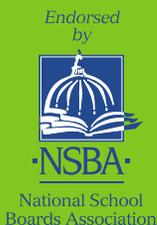
The district's retrofits involved \$1.2 million in lighting improvements (including changing out 53,147 fixtures) and other improvements such as digital HVAC controls, occupancy sensors and solar window films - all paid for with savings from reduced energy bills. By the end of 2002, according to Energy Manager Mike Woodall, 97 percent of the district's lights were the newer, more efficient T-8 fluorescent lamps and electronic ballasts instead of a less efficient lighting system.

To raise awareness of energy efficiency, the school district developed energy education units for its elementary and middle school students that incorporated an Earth Patrol. Through the Earth Patrol program, nearly 500 students take responsibility for monitoring school facilities and reducing wasteful practices.

Pasco County Schools also began monitoring its energy use with a software program that helps to track gas, water, sewer, irrigation and solid waste usage and costs.

In 2000, having grown from 30 to 54 schools, the district boasted an energy bill that was \$40,000 less than its 1992 bill. In the 2001-2002 school year, Pasco County Schools

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# Partnership Facts:

**Name of Partnership:**  
Education Energy Managers  
Association of Florida

**Targeted Buildings**  
K-12 schools

**Space Completed or Improved:**  
5.7 million square feet  
(or 58 K-12 schools)

**Annual Energy Savings**  
\$1.1 million in avoided costs,  
(\$399,925 in lighting  
improvements)

**Amount Invested in Energy-Saving  
Project or initiative:**  
\$1.2 million in lighting  
improvements

**Contact:**  
Mike Woodall  
Facilities Specialist/Energy Manager  
Pasco County Schools  
727-774-7945  
mwoodall@pasco.k12.fl.us

**DOE Atlanta Regional Office:**  
75 Spring Street SW, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-562-0555  
[www.eere.energy.gov/aro](http://www.eere.energy.gov/aro)

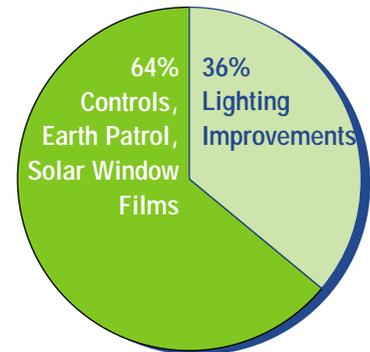
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energy-saving technologies,  
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Web site: [www.rebuild.gov](http://www.rebuild.gov)  
or contact Rebuild America  
at: 252-459-4664.

saved more than \$1.95 million in capital outlay and more than \$2 million per square foot. The savings have allowed the school board to allot additional funds to salary improvements and the purchase of classroom materials. The Pasco County Schools district is now one of the lowest cost energy users in Florida.

The school system accomplished much of its energy-related work through its affiliation with the Education Energy Managers Association of Florida (EEMAF), which is a Rebuild America partnership. EEMAF, a networking organization for professionals who make decisions about energy use at educational institutions, is growing and currently represents two-thirds of the school districts in Florida. It is a forum for exchanging ideas and information on the role and responsibilities of energy management and provides information on energy-related equipment and products. Pasco County is a charter member of EEMAF and is represented on its Board of Directors.

In April 2003, Pasco County Schools was awarded a Magna Award by the National School Boards Association, a Rebuild America Strategic Partner. The school system was one of two citation winners and was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship fund for its Earth Patrol program.

**Annual Energy Savings**



To learn more visit: [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov).



## A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.

Rebuild America is a U.S. Department of Energy program that focuses on improving communities through energy-saving solutions.

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