

## School District of Altoona Achieves Energy and Cost Savings Through Energy Management

*When the going gets tough, the tough save energy—and money!*

It is no secret that school districts in the state of Wisconsin are facing significant budget constraints. While tough times can sometimes lead to inertia, the Altoona School District decided to take action. In 2009, with a clear goal to optimize the comfort of students, faculty and staff while managing rising electricity and gas utility bills in mind, they began their partnership with CESA 10's Energy Management Services.



### The Savings

Over the last twelve months, the Altoona School District has realized \$81,995 in energy savings. The district has averted more than \$122,000 in energy costs since they began working with CESA 10's Energy Management Team.

**Cumulative Energy Savings \$122,866**

*"These cumulative savings nearly equal the cost of two teachers. That is the best news of all – two more teachers to meet the needs of our students."*

*Greg Fahrman, District Administrator*

### What They Did

CESA takes a two-pronged approach to energy management. The first prong involves technical strategy and the evaluation of equipment and use of technology to impact energy savings. For the Altoona School District this involved:

- Updating equipment schedules
- Delamping over-lit areas
- Shutting down walk-in coolers and freezers for the summer
- Consolidating summer classes to minimize HVAC equipment needs
- Unplugging appliances over the summer
- Limiting electric demand
- Adjusting ventilation levels to match actual occupancy
- Reprogramming boiler control sequences to minimize short cycling and overheating

*"These actions involved minimal investment in new equipment. A variety of no-cost, low-cost strategies can result in significant savings. But, it's not just about equipment and technology."*

*Todd Wanous, CESA 10 Energy Manager*

The second prong of CESA's energy management strategy is the behavioral component. This involves working with customers to help them identify and implement behavioral changes to reduce their energy use, while maintaining or increasing comfort. The following strategies were implemented in the Altoona School District:

- Energy Management presentations to various audiences
- Explanation of school utility bills and charges
- Weekly energy tips
- Utilized District Facebook page to engage greater school community
- Quarterly energy management updates shared with all staff members
- Communicated energy use trends and projects via updates
- Shared energy conservation best practices
- Captured energy conservation in action with photos

“In addition to equipment upgrades and improving system efficiencies, there are many behavioral changes that district staff have made to contribute to energy conservation. It is important that everyone take responsibility for the energy they use at school.”

*Melissa Rickert, CESA 10 Energy Manager*

### Results From Working Together

Over the years, CESA energy managers have listened to the needs of the district and used feedback from the building occupants to help implement appropriate energy projects. It's a partnership that has made a difference.

“Todd Wanous, CESA 10 Energy Manager, has been a real asset to me and the school district. He takes time to show us the finer points of how to save energy and he always points out new things to look at whenever he's in the district.”

*Greg Johnson, Director of Buildings & Grounds*



**For more information on CESA 10's Energy Management Services, call 715.720.2178 or visit [www.cesa10.k12.wi.us/ems](http://www.cesa10.k12.wi.us/ems).**

### About CESA 10

CESA 10, located in Chippewa Falls, WI, is committed to providing high-quality, effective and efficient business services, special education services, professional development and leadership in educational technology and instructional services for the 29 school districts in the region as well as other partner schools. In addition, CESA 10 provides energy management and environmental health and safety services to schools and municipalities statewide. CESA 10 also administers the Focus on Energy Schools and Government program.