



SEE



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School Districts Achieve Milestones in Energy Program

SAINT PAUL, MN (August 6, 2009) - While schools are struggling to balance their budgets, some districts were planning ahead a few years ago by taking a look at their energy bills as a way to reduce costs. Today, they are being honored for their achievements as they hit certain milestones as part of the [Schools for Energy Efficiency®](#) (SEE) program.

Hundreds of schools have participated in this program, but an extraordinary few were honored with Energy Milestone Awards during the Annual SEE Training Conference held July 23 in Lakeville, Minnesota – home of the program’s newest Minnesota school district. Districts were recognized for hitting specific energy dollar savings totals since they joined the SEE program. Osseo Area Schools and Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School Districts in Minnesota have already saved over \$500,000 on their energy bills after only two years. Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District also hit this milestone in addition to being the first in their state of [New Jersey](#) to be named an ENERGY STAR® Leader, a national award for district-wide continuous improvement in energy efficiency, and having the first ENERGY STAR Labeled school, ranking its operations among the top 25% most efficient in the nation.

SEE is a systemized plan created specifically for K-12 schools providing a multi-year approach to energy reduction through operational strategies, behavioral awareness campaigns, and utility tracking reports. It’s about a collection of people making small changes to their daily routine in an effort to eliminate wasted energy use. Many have proven that a million dollars in energy savings without major infrastructure improvements is feasible. Districts reaching this milestone in 2009 are Cambridge-Isanti School District, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools, St. Cloud Area Schools (\$1.5 million), and South Washington County Schools (\$2.5 million after 5 years in the program).



2009 ENERGY MILESTONE AWARDS

\$500,000 in Energy Savings

*Osseo Area Schools, MN

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District, MN

Bridgewater-Raritan Schools, NJ

\$1,000,000 in Energy Savings

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools, MN

Cambridge-Isanti School District, MN

\$1,500,000 in Energy Savings

*St. Cloud Area Schools, MN

\$2,500,000 in Energy Savings

*South Washington County School District, MN

Most Efficient Energy Use

Austin School District, MN*

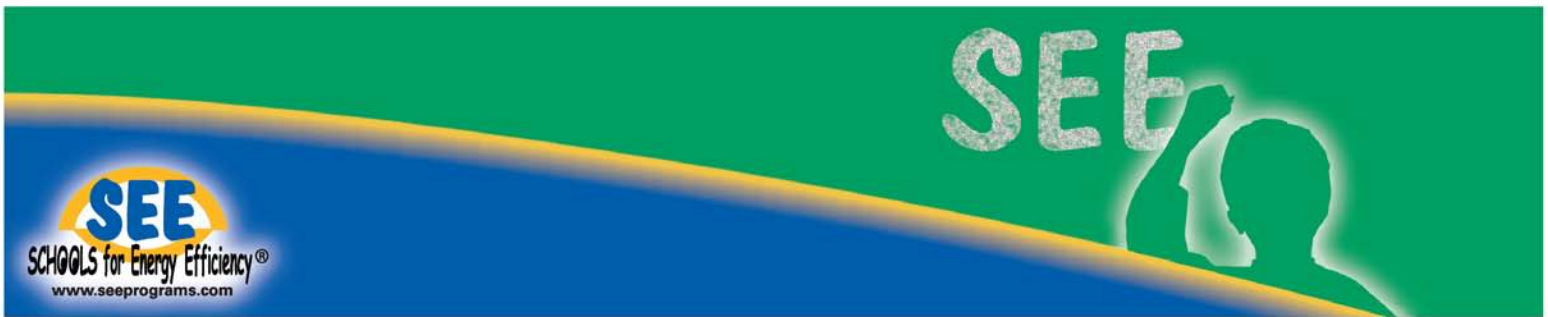
Greatest Energy Savings in the Past Year (33%)

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools, MN

Energy Efficiency Coordinator of the Year

Nancy Johnson, Cambridge-Isanti School District, MN

**Districts also received national awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as ENERGY STAR Leaders this year. (www.energystar.gov)*



Austin school district in southern Minnesota continues to be the program's most efficient school district using 57.8 kbtu per square foot. All participating school districts save energy with the goal of the program to reduce overall energy use (electric and heating fuel combined) by 10 percent. During this last year, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District excelled above the rest with a 33 percent reduction in energy use. Early on, this district decided to reinvest some of the money they saved through SEE into more efficient equipment upgrades as well.

An integral part of the program success is a district champion, referred to as the Energy Efficiency Coordinator, to lead the efforts of this self-implemented conservation program. "When the SEE program was initially designed, we talked about what key pieces would make our program successful –besides operational strategies and awareness campaigns and we knew the personal element would be critical to ensuring the program works. We knew this person had to be familiar with the school district, the individual needed to be respected by district personnel and be comfortable influencing others." Joe Hallberg, President of Energy Efficiency Programs, Inc. The very first Energy Efficiency Coordinator of the Year award was presented to Nancy Johnson from Cambridge-Isanti School District who has helped lead each of her school facilities to the 10% goal at during the course of the program with an average district energy use reduction of 30% in their most recent year's utility tracking data.

"Nancy's personal belief and commitment to energy conservation is something she lives and models daily and is evident in her message to all staff and students throughout our school district. I am extremely grateful that she is on our team at Cambridge-Isanti, and I cannot think of a more deserving individual for this honor and award. Thank you, Nancy." Bruce Novak, Superintendent of the Cambridge-Isanti schools

"Our congratulations goes out to everyone who is a part of the energy teams in these schools. Success of this program is accomplished by the small actions of many, so your collaboration to achieve your goal is commended. Saving energy is truly important during these tight economic times and sets the tone for an environmentally conscious culture within your student body and communities." Joe Hallberg

About the SEE Program

[Schools for Energy Efficiency](http://www.seeprograms.com)® is a comprehensive program designed for K-12 schools to save energy and money by changing behavior throughout the district. Savings are immediate and sustainable through a unique approach using strategies for both efficient operations and engaging energy awareness materials for staff and students. The SEE program provides a multi-year plan with training, support, and utility tracking for implementation managed by the school district. To date, the nearly 600 participating schools have collectively avoided spending \$17 million dollars on utility bills in just 5 years with the average annual savings per school \$16,000.

The program was developed in 2002 by [Hallberg Engineering, Inc.](http://www.hallbergengineering.com) of White Bear Lake, Minnesota a mechanical and electrical engineering firm specializing in schools. SEE was created in response to a school district's need for a flexible, self-implemented plan to realize immediate savings in energy use and develop a long-term culture of energy efficiency. Today, the program is a sister company, Energy Efficiency Programs, Inc. to allow for further growth and expansion. The SEE program was recently expanded from Minnesota to [Iowa](#), [New Jersey](#), and [Pennsylvania](#) and is available to school districts nationwide.

Photo Caption

District Energy Team Awardees pictured left to right: Connie Coriell - Bridgewater-Raritan NJ, Mark Eisenbacher - Cambridge/Isanti MN, Lesa Jedlicki - Osseo MN, Wayne Yust - Cambridge/Isanti, Marj Hawkins - St. Cloud MN, Ron Bratlie - Osseo MN, Sue Doering - St. Cloud, Ken Brandel - Rosemount/Apple Valley/Eagan MN, Nancy Johnson - Cambridge/Isanti, Scott Gjesdahl - Rosemount/Apple Valley/Eagan, Carmel Taylor - Austin MN, Eric Hamilton - Buffalo/Hanover/Montrose MN, Sandy Hanson - Buffalo/Hanover/Montrose, Kevin Ordorff - Buffalo/Hanover/Montrose. Not pictured Anne Anderson - Rosemount/Apple Valley/Eagan and Mick Greiner - South Washington County School District MN.