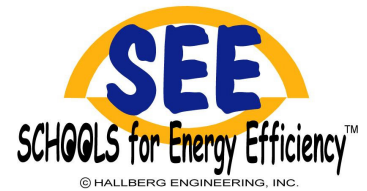


For Immediate Release
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SEE Program Wins National 2004 Energy Smart America Award for Innovation in Energy Efficiency

White Bear Lake, MN - The Schools for Energy Efficiency™ (SEE) Program was awarded the prestigious 2004 National Recognition Award for Innovation in Energy Efficiency by the U.S. Department of Energy at the Energy Smart America Conference on May 12, 2004. The Energy Smart America 2004 Awards have been established to honor organizations that have excelled in their contributions to energy efficiency and renewable energy in the states and community network.

The SEE Program has strategic partnerships with the US Department of Energy Rebuild America program via the Minnesota State Energy Office, Bishop Energy Engineering and the US Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star Program.

The SEE Program works to implement strategies that focus on efficient facility operations and behavioral change to eliminate energy waste. Schools participating in the program develop a district energy plan and encourage energy-smart behaviors that best use their energy and energy funds.



The SEE Program is a team effort to save energy to support education and involves staff, teachers and students to focus on saving energy throughout each school. The goal is to achieve a **10% reduction in annual energy use**, enhance the learning environment, and work toward an Energy Star® rating from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The SEE program's success is due in large part to the focus on fostering cooperation among their partner school districts and adapting the program to each school's unique situation. Currently there are eight participating SEE school districts, including Bloomington, West St. Paul, St. Cloud, South Washington County, Burnsville/Eagan/Savage, Cambridge, St. Paul and Buffalo. These districts include 178 school sites encompassing over 17,000,000 total square feet. Together, they spend more than 16 million dollars on energy each year with a goal of over \$1.6 million per year in cost avoidance through their energy efficiency efforts.

"The program has truly benefited the schools and the community by translating unused energy funds into resources that support education," says Ronald Santoro, co-chair, Energy Smart America 2004 Planning Committee. "Hallberg's creative approach to energy efficiency and their commitment to empowering schools to save energy is inspiring."

For most schools, the cost of energy (lighting, heating, and cooling) is second only to salaries, and exceeds the cost of supplies and books. By using energy efficiency strategies schools across the country have realized substantial savings. The funds generated from these savings can then be redirected to other areas of the school's budget.

"SEE provides a systemized plan, on-site support and curriculum resources," said Janet Streff, Minnesota State Energy Office Manger, who was present at the Energy Smart awards ceremony. "In addition to saving energy, it helps students, staff and the community develop a culture of conservation."

The SEE Program is being implemented by Hallberg Engineering, Inc. of White Bear Lake, Minnesota, a mechanical and electrical engineering firm with over 20 years experience serving Minnesota School Districts. If you have any questions about the SEE program and how it can help schools save energy, contact Sheri Rosenthal, SEE Project Manager, at 651-748-4356.

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