

EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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NEWS RELEASE

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EGCSD SCHOOLS EARN THE ENERGY STAR® FOR SUPERIOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Five of the East Greenbush Central School District's school buildings have earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) prestigious ENERGY STAR, the national symbol for protecting the environment through superior energy performance. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Angela Nagle, presented the District's Board of Education with plaques at the February 10th Board meeting. The plaques, which feature the ENERGY STAR logo, will be installed at the winning school buildings.

Nagle said, "The district is pleased to receive the EPA's ENERGY STAR in recognition of energy efficiency efforts at Columbia High School, Goff Middle School, Bell Top Elementary School, Green Meadow Elementary School and Red Mill Elementary School. From custodians to teachers, I want to thank our staff for helping us be more energy efficient. Lowering our energy costs is a critical part of our district's efforts to achieve cost savings and efficiencies during these difficult financial times." This marks the first time the District earned this distinction from the EPA.

Three years ago, the East Greenbush Central School District implemented the Energy Education Inc. (EEI) program to improve its energy performance. The program, coordinated locally by sixth grade science teacher Thomas Brownell, is designed to manage energy strategically across the entire district.

The partnership with EEI has helped the District achieve a district-wide cost savings of 21 percent or a cost avoidance of \$834,473 since September 2007. This is the equivalent of keeping 422 cars off the road for one year or reducing carbon dioxide (CO²) emissions by approximately 2,353 metric tons. It is also equal to planting and growing 60,187 tree seedlings over a 10-year period.

As part of the EEI program, the East Greenbush Central School District:

- Adopted a Board policy on energy management conservation.
- Increased awareness efforts on the part of staff and students concerning energy-saving measures. This included turning off lights and shutting down computers at the end of the school day.
- Used computerized heating systems to optimize energy use.
- Completed regular energy audits of each school building.

The partnership with EEL helped the school district achieve the ENERGY STAR honor. Buildings that earn the ENERGY STAR use an average of 40 percent less energy than typical buildings and also release 35 percent less carbon monoxide into the atmosphere.

“Whether you are running a grocery store, a school, or an office building, getting the most out of your energy dollars – while reducing your carbon footprint – just makes sense,” said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson.

EPA’s national energy performance rating system provides a 1-100 scale that helps organizations assess how efficiently their facilities use energy relative to similar buildings nationwide. A commercial building that scores a rating of 75 or higher is eligible for the ENERGY STAR.

ENERGY STAR was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Today, the ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 50 different kinds of products, new homes and commercial and industrial buildings.

Last year alone, Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved about \$19 billion on their energy bills while reducing the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 29 million vehicles.

For more information about ENERGY STAR visit www.energystar.gov.

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