

STORIES BEHIND THE BATTLE



Claiborne Elementary School

East Baton Rouge Parish School System
Baton Rouge, La.

RECOGNITION:

#1 overall winner
#1 winner, Education category
20% energy use reduction

SAVINGS:

45.9% energy savings
\$114,499 estimated cost savings
488 MtCO₂e greenhouse gas emissions prevented

BUILDING STATS:

Type: Education
Ending EUI: 129 kBtu/Sq. Ft.

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“Start getting all stakeholders on board with the energy program from the beginning, whether they’re your building occupants, employees, maintenance staff, contractors or visitors. Customize your communications and interactions with them for the most effective way to gain their cooperation.”

Using effective management

The most effective tool in saving energy was managing and scheduling the HVAC and lighting systems, which was achieved by working closely with the school principal and staff throughout the year. Computerized building automation system (BAS) control and scheduling software was used to fine-tune and continually adjust system settings to accommodate the specific comfort needs of the school, while using the least amount of energy to do so.

Some examples of steps Claiborne’s energy team took include setting back cooling, heating, and lighting levels when rooms are unoccupied; determining how many chillers and hot water boilers are needed to meet the temperature and humidity needs of the school; and automatically adjusting the amount of fresh air being brought into the building to meet the occupancy and ventilation requirements during any given part of the day.

Creating a culture of energy conservation

Claiborne created a culture of energy conservation by involving everyone in its mission. Frequent energy conservation awareness presentations to students and teachers explained specific steps they could take to save energy, as well as the importance of conserving the earth’s resources. Students learned about simple actions they could take to make a difference, including adjusting thermostats, keeping doors and windows closed when cooling or heating systems are operating, and making sure all electronic devices in their classrooms are shut off at the end of the day. During the year, aspects of energy conservation were integrated into activities outside the classroom—such as the school’s “Spooky Math & Science Night” on Halloween—supporting the school’s efforts to develop the next generation of energy conservation leaders!