

STORIES BEHIND THE BATTLE



DeBusk Elementary School

Greene County Schools
Greeneville, Tenn.

RECOGNITION:

#13 overall winner
20% energy use reduction

SAVINGS:

29.1% energy savings
\$5,819 estimated cost savings
50 MtCO₂e greenhouse gas emissions prevented

BUILDING STATS:

Type: Education
Ending EUI: 106 kBtu/Sq. Ft.

“Three things imperative to a successful energy conservation program are supportive leadership, effective communication, and having a person responsible for monitoring consumption and maintaining conservation measures.”

Savings result from behavior changes

During the 2013 ENERGY STAR National Building Competition, the savings at DeBusk Elementary School were the result of behavior and building-system changes. The Greene County School System partnered with Cenergistic, an energy conservation company, to implement their program and begin a culture shift toward conservation among the employees of the school district.

Without a doubt, the greatest savings resulted from nighttime, weekend, and holiday setbacks. There were absolutely no upgrades in equipment or fixtures; however, the scheduled run times of existing HVAC units, lights, computers, and other electronic devices were matched to the occupancy schedule of the school. And successful, consistent setbacks are only possible with the cooperation of all the faculty and staff working in the facility. While implementing these setbacks, the team routinely monitors humidity and adjusts ventilation appropriately to help maintain a good learning environment.

Routine building audits to document unnecessary energy usage also helped identify and address areas needing improvement. A key step was then communicating the results of these audits to building administrators and occupants, so that the needed changes could take place. Although most of the savings at DeBusk Elementary School were achieved through setbacks/shutdowns during unoccupied times, the implementation of a preventive maintenance program for HVAC units also helped improve efficiency.

For additional information, contact:

Steve Tipton
tiptons@greenek12.org
(423) 470-5844