

STORIES BEHIND THE BATTLE



Demarest Elementary School

Bloomfield Public School District
Bloomfield, N.J.

RECOGNITION:

#1 overall winner
#1 winner, K-12 schools category
20% energy use reduction

SAVINGS:

52% Energy Savings
\$75,900 Estimated Cost Savings
267 MtCO₂e Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Prevented

BUILDING STATS:

Type: K-12 school
Ending EUI: 79 kBtu/Sq. Ft.

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“Don’t try to tackle everything at once; it’s a process. Listen to your buildings, learn your buildings. Then you can begin to implement your program.”

Saving energy starts at the top

In 2011, Bloomfield Public School District hired ENERGY STAR partner Cenergistic to help identify and capture energy savings. Under the leadership of Principal Mary Todaro, the school has been able to engage its entire staff in saving energy. Once staff members had bought into the Energy Savings Program, they took control of their immediate areas by turning off and unplugging... whether it was equipment, accessories, or anything else that was using up energy needlessly.

Take your building’s temperature

Before the energy team could program the building to run on a normal schedule, they first had to learn how to operate its antiquated energy management system (EMS) and replace a heat timer. Once that was done, they were able to get the building to run on a normal schedule. The head custodian watches the weather daily for high and low temperatures and will shut down boilers when the building reaches temperature—a practice they refer to as “toast and coast.” Monitoring outside air temperature, especially in the spring and fall shoulder seasons, will save big dollars!

But don’t forget, it takes time

Now that the biggest problems have been handled, the team is beginning to address normal maintenance. Through Cenergistic’s program, they’ve been able to identify many mechanical issues that have been overlooked for years. But it’s a process that takes time.

Know what else takes time? Changing bad behaviors. But there’s already evidence of progress at Demarest. The school has committed staff members who continue to become more conscientious of turning off, unplugging, and taking ownership of the Energy Savings Program.