

STORIES BEHIND THE BATTLE



West Middle School

Shelby County Public Schools
Shelbyville, Ky

RECOGNITION:

#15 overall winner
Most Valuable Participant (MVP)
20% energy use reduction

SAVINGS:

28.9% energy savings
\$35,275 estimated cost savings
307 MtCO₂e greenhouse gas emissions prevented

BUILDING STATS:

Type: Education
Ending EUI: 135 kBtu/Sq. Ft.

For additional information, contact:

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“You need to know how you’re doing; knowing how much energy your facilities use compared to other organizations is very important when considering an energy management program. Using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager allows me to see how my buildings are ranked nationally and on what facilities I need to focus my efforts.”

Investing in energy-saving projects

By updating the control system in West Middle School, the school’s team was able to enjoy immediate energy savings. Although the existing building controls were installed in 2000, they weren’t user-friendly and didn’t allow the building to operate at maximum efficiency. The new controls allow the team to remotely control the facility and operate only the occupied areas, which greatly reduces energy usage. Sensors are used to routinely monitor humidity and carbon dioxide levels, and systems are adjusted accordingly to ensure a good learning environment. The updated controls system could be perceived as an expensive investment, but once the controls were fully functional, the project paid for itself in just over three months!

Super-star staff members

Once the new control system was installed in the school, the rest of the energy savings came thanks to the total staff effort in reducing wasted energy. The maintenance staff inspected and adjusted mechanical equipment to ensure maximum efficiency, and replaced all of the older inefficient lighting with more efficient bulbs which also offered higher quality lighting.

Most Valuable Participant

In addition to saving energy, West Middle School earned EPA’s Most Valuable Participant award for exemplary performance in communicating its energy-saving efforts and participation in the competition to students, staff, and the broader public. The school got the word out through a press release, email blasts, the school’s website, social media posts on Twitter and Flickr, posters, and in-person events.