



Service and Product Provider Partner

Schools for Energy Efficiency® (SEE)

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Customer

Cambridge-Isanti Independent School District #911

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Cambridge-Isanti School District, in partnership with the Schools for Energy Efficiency® (SEE) program decreased its energy use by 30.8% in five and a half years, reducing operating costs by over \$1,559,657.

Project Scope

In 2004, Cambridge-Isanti Independent School District #911 joined the SEE program, a five-year energy conservation and efficiency program designed to raise awareness, educate building operators, and increase adoption of energy efficient behaviors and practices by building occupants. SEE provided a systemized energy management plan, awareness materials, training, and utility tracking for immediate and sustainable energy and cost savings throughout the school district.

Project Summary

SEE worked with key district personnel at all levels to establish a district-wide energy team, and author an energy policy and guidelines. SEE and the district's newly formed energy team benchmarked all buildings in ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager and analyzed results to recommend improvements and take corrective action. Through education and training, SEE built the district's capacity to manage their energy.

- **Energy Savings**
SEE helped Cambridge-Isanti reduce overall energy use by 30.8% in five and a half years, with average energy intensity falling from 83 kBtu/ ft² in 2004 to 65 kBtu/ft² in 2009.
- **Investment**
Implementation and management of energy efficiency program and utility tracking services totaled less than \$279,500 over five years.
- **Financial Return**
Return on Investment (ROI) of \$4.78.
- **Other Benefits**
Cambridge-Isanti has operated for the last 5½ years without increasing their operational budget, despite rising energy prices. The SEE program also provides the school district with an opportunity to teach children how simple changes can add up to big results.

Monitoring & Verifying Energy Savings

Energy use is monitored using tools including Portfolio Manager. Reports are regularly reviewed by building managers, the district energy coordinator, and the buildings and grounds director to ensure efficient operations and identify additional improvement opportunities. Through partnership with SEE, Cambridge-Isanti has a current portfolio-wide energy performance score of 89, has earned the ENERGY STAR label for all seven k-12 buildings, and received ENERGY STAR Leader-Top Performer and ENERGY STAR Leader- 30% Improvement recognition in 2010.

Distinguishing Value

Equipped with a plan that is flexible to fit the needs of each school district, the SEE program provided a strategic framework to enable Cambridge-Isanti to achieve its energy savings goals. Cambridge-Isanti's school buildings are operating more efficiently, building engineers are empowered to manage their buildings, staff members contribute to reducing energy, students are engaged in life-long energy conservation habits, and the school district budgets are positively affected.

