

Case Study ID

05-0045



ENERGY OFFICE

Case Study Series

South Haven Public Schools “Energy Efficiency at its Best”

Innovative Thinking Uses Federal Program to Pave Way for \$3.2 Million Renovation

South Haven Public Schools consists of seven schools serving 2,550 students and 150 faculty in southwestern Michigan. The facilities encompass 412,000 square feet.



Challenges

- Aging buildings with uncomfortable classroom environments due to energy-leaking windows and inefficient temperature regulation.
- Failing boiler and unit ventilators at one of the elementary schools.
- Very limited budget for improvements due to failed bond referendums.

Solutions

- Replace windows at the high school and install a Metasys Building Automation System to monitor and control energy use in *all schools*.
- Install new boiler and unit vents at elementary school, and re-pipe tunnels.
- Apply 0% interest funds to cover the \$3.2 million installation costs via the Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) program. This federal program provides interest-free funds to qualifying schools for projects such as public school rehabilitation and repair.

Results

- Reduced energy costs by \$92,000 per year and operational costs by \$75,000 per year.
- Funded project without taxpayer assistance. Through resulting positive public relations, the district positioned itself to move forward with a new bond referendum to address construction of a new Elementary School and major renovations to other elementary buildings as well as a new auditorium added to the High School.
- QZAB program also provided other benefits to the school district. A \$130,000 higher-education scholarship program has been established, and a 10% matching grant provided other enhancements, including a new marquee at the high school.

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