

Bibb County School District Cuts Energy Use 32 Percent

MACON, Ga. — Less than two years into an energy conservation partnership with [Cenergistic](#), a national sustainability company, Bibb County School District (BCSD) has cut districtwide energy use 32 percent. The achievement means lower energy expenses for the district while attracting recognition from organizations across the nation.

Initial estimates show 27 BCSD schools and facilities are eligible for ENERGY STAR® certification, a distinction the U.S. Department of Energy only reserves for the top 25 percent of efficient buildings nationwide. These 27 facilities would represent the first ENERGY STAR recognition in the district's history.

“ENERGY STAR certification is a terrific opportunity to demonstrate to our taxpayers the district's efforts to do our part with energy management and conservation,” said Keith Simmons, Chief of Staff at BCSD. “It speaks to our efforts to be good stewards of the resources we're given to ensure a quality education for our students.”

In December 2020, the district earned Cenergistic's Energy Excellence Award, an honor bestowed only to organizations that have achieved significant energy use reduction. The emissions prevented from the program's conservation efforts have a positive environmental impact equal to avoiding 12 million miles of automobile travel.

To improve building operations and save costs, BCSD personnel and the program's Energy Specialist team act as energy watchdogs, working in tandem to audit and optimize energy-using systems across the organization to achieve peak efficiency. Guided by Cenergistic engineers and experts, the Energy Specialists track energy consumption at all campuses with state-of-the-art technology to identify waste and drive conservation.

“Our relationship with the district has evolved really well. It takes a team effort to cover the scope of the program,” said Rachad Hollis, one of the district's two Energy Specialists. “It starts from the top. Administration has been really good about getting principals involved, and the principals have been really good about getting the teachers involved, and it trickles down to the students, custodians and maintenance crews.”

In response to COVID-19, the Energy Specialists give special attention to improving air quality and supporting facilities teams to ensure schools can safely support student learning. Through thousands of facility audits, they provide a continuous presence throughout BCSD schools, identifying hazards, optimizing equipment and helping implement CDC recommendations for reopening and continued operation.

Victoria Walker, the second BCSD Energy Specialist, believes the money saved from the program's energy reduction measures will provide a major boost to student learning.

"Above all, this program helps the community, because we're able to put resources back into the district," said Walker. "They're able to fund the areas that need it. They're able to fund more to the athletic department, or the fine arts department, or buy more books. Especially in these unprecedented times, the funding for technology creates an environment that's up to the challenge and more comfortable for parents and students."

About Bibb County School District

Bibb County School District is an urban school district located in Macon, Georgia, educating approximately 22,000 students each year. Our vision is that each student will demonstrate strength of character and will be college or career ready.

About Cenergistic

Since 1986 Cenergistic has partnered with 1490+ educational, municipal government and healthcare organizations to achieve \$6 billion in utility savings and cost avoidance. These strong results come from the application of Cenergistic's organizational behavior-based strategies and are enhanced by our proprietary software platform to drive building and equipment optimization. Our energy conservation program reduces utility consumption by an average of 25% with no capital investment while maintaining or improving the comfort and quality of building environments. For more than a decade, Cenergistic has been recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as ENERGY STAR® Partner of the Year or Partner of the Year – Sustained Excellence. To learn more, visit www.cenergistic.com.