

The Rochester City School District



The Rochester City School District Energy and Sustainability in Buildings and Classrooms

"Our energy program and commitment to renewable energy sources makes good sense, both environmentally and financially. We are proud to be recognized as an environmentally conscious school district, and are proud of the enthusiastic response of our students and staff in making that possible."

- Dr. Manuel J. Rivera
Rochester Superintendent
of Schools



The Rochester City School District (RCSD) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) have a long-standing partnership designed to improve the energy efficiency, indoor environment, and comfort of more than 50 RCSD buildings. As a result of its district-wide energy efficiency program, RCSD became the first organization in New York State to receive the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ENERGY STAR® Leader Award, conferred on organizations achieving a 10% improvement in overall energy efficiency. RCSD received this award for installing an advanced energy management system, upgrading its steam system, installing energy-efficient lighting, installing vending machine occupancy sensors, implementing water conservation measures, retro-commissioning four buildings, and upgrading HVAC systems, boilers, and electric motors, as well as replacing a heat wheel.

The total cost of the energy efficiency projects was \$20.56 million, with NYSERDA funding more than \$1 million from its **New York Energy \$martSM** programs. The results will save more than 6,858,500 kWh of electricity and more than 49,000 MMBtu of fossil fuels. The energy efficiency improvements provide an annual utility savings of more than \$725,000 and displace thousands of pounds of harmful emissions. The savings allow RCSD to maintain a more stable utility budget, despite increases in utility costs.

RCSD is also a large purchaser of renewable energy, with 29% of its electrical power from renewable resources. It purchases a mix of wind, hydro-electric, solar, and biomass with the largest percentage of the District's renewable energy coming from wind power. According to the EPA, the District ranks as the nation's second largest purchaser of renewable power by a school district. The purchase of renewable energy offsets 15.9 tons of SO_x, 5.3 tons of NO_x, and 5,750 tons of CO₂ annually.

RCSD has expanded its energy efficiency efforts to the classroom, and its educational programs teach energy efficiency, sustainability, and renewable energy to K-12 students. Working with the Alliance to Save Energy and Wendel Energy Services, the District adopted the Green Schools Energy Education Program created by the Alliance to Save Energy. This innovative program includes an incentive for each participating school building, and returns 50% of the annual energy savings for education-related expenditures approved by the Green Schools teams. For example, RCSD's Wilson Magnet High School was awarded a check for \$10,648, and some of the funds were used by students to go to Washington, DC to receive a National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project award.

The Rochester City School District has committed itself to a holistic, innovative, and fiscally sound energy management program that provides its students and staff with an enhanced learning and working environment. Its energy program is recognized as one of the most unique and progressive programs in the nation. District taxpayers, students, staff, and the City of Rochester community all benefit from the improvements that have been implemented. The continued efforts by the RCSD facility staff, students, teachers, and administration will expand the successes of this first-rate, nationally recognized program.

For more information about these services, contact NYSERDA
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