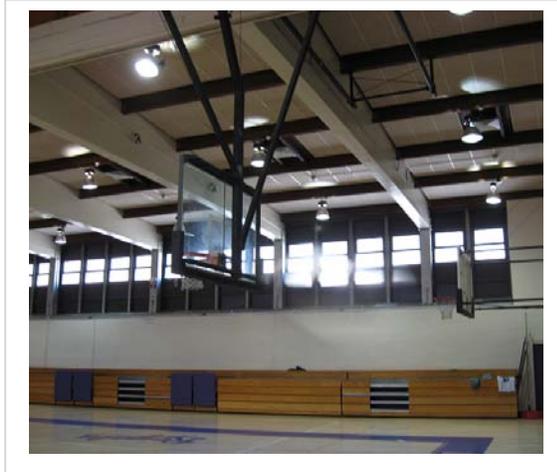


## What the Dickens is Going on Here?

- Photovoltaic installation to be the District's first source of alternative energy
- Photovoltaics to complement corresponding efficiency project
- Lighting upgrades estimated to save 396,000 kWh, annually



### **Port Jefferson Union Free School District**

The annual Dickens Festival attracts tens of thousands of visitors to the village of Port Jefferson, New York, during the Christmas season. Holiday twinkle and a troupe of street performers playing the role of 19<sup>th</sup> century townspeople transform the waterfront to an English town of Dickens' 1800s era. Beyond the wreaths and bows, revelers will soon notice a marked, modern contrast: a 48 KW photovoltaic system is to be installed on the rooftop of the town's Edna Louise Spear Elementary School.

### **First in Town to Demonstrate Renewables**

With no obstructions from trees and buildings, the single story elementary school is ideally suited for collection of solar energy. As the first source of alternative energy for this District, the project is a source of pride.

"Our project takes renewable power as something someone else does, and turns it into something we do," says Fred Koelbel, Plant Facilities Administrator for Port Jefferson UFSD.

### **Strong Partners**

Awarded \$403,200, in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, the grant provided the necessary boost to propel the District to act. "The project would not have happened without the ARRA funds," says Mr. Koelbel. "NYSERDA's grant gave us the ability to jump start and move forward with this project."

### **Lead By Example**

Originally constructed in 1957, the 107,980 square foot elementary school houses Pre-K through Fifth Grade. Beyond energy cost savings, which are estimated to be greater than \$9,000 per year, the panels will introduce today's children to alternative energy.

"The next generation of rate payers is walking into the building each day, and they will be learning about the process of generating energy," says Mr. Koelbel.

The District plans to install a student-friendly monitoring station, which will indicate the amount of power being transformed by the panels and the amount of power being used by the school.

“One of the most important things about the solar panels is their educational value,” Mr. Koelbel notes.

### **Efficiency First**

The solar panels will complement coinciding energy efficiency upgrade projects, similarly funded by ARRA monies granted by NYSERDA. With the help of a \$337,242 award, the District will undertake significant lighting upgrades to the Elementary School, the Vandermeulen High School, the High School Tech Ed Building, and the Operations and Maintenance Building.

“Our first step before moving forward was to work with NYSERDA to benchmark what we already had,” says Mr. Koelbel. “Using this current information as a guide allowed us to identify where we could have the biggest impact.”

Across all schools, the tally includes installing 94 occupancy sensors, replacing 807 lighting fixtures, and retrofitting 1,361 fixtures with new energy efficient lamps and ballasts. Combined, the energy savings are estimated at 396,000 kWh, annually, which will save approximately \$74,000 each year.

Mr. Koelbel and the Port Jefferson district recognized the import of efficiency first, applying first for the lighting project grant. “We led with the lighting project, recognizing that it would be a competitive proposal, in part because it offered a great bang for our buck. We wanted to put our best foot forward.”

### **Star Attraction**

The ARRA projects combine to represent a significant improvement to the District’s energy profile. “The projects continue a shift in our thinking,” Mr. Koelbel notes. “We emphasize the environment in many of our choices, including choosing Clean Seal cleaning products and floors with high recycled content.

The ARRA projects highlight the emphasis that the district places on cutting energy use and practicing environmental stewardship.”

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – State Energy Program**

The Port Jefferson Union Free School District received these awards from the [U.S. Department of Energy’s State Energy Program](#). The State Energy Program provides grants to states and directs funding to State Energy Offices from technology programs in DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. States use grants to address their energy priorities and to adopt emerging renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. SEP is distributing \$3.1 billion of funding to the states and U.S. territories under the [2009 Recovery Act](#).