

What's the Buzz?

"We only occupy our schools and have a responsibility to our community to operate them in the most efficient way we can."

~ Bill Good, COO

"If you want to make your classroom and/or school more "green" all you have to do is ask your students. This generation has grown up with energy conservation as the norm. The students will identify the problem, a solution, and if you empower them they will execute a plan to make the school a better and greener place."

~ Blake Hammond, Merrill Science Teacher

"I truly hope the Des Moines school district will take a look at the possibility of starting to buy some recycled paper. What a great role model we would be for other businesses in Des Moines to follow suit."

~ Carolyn Uhlenhake, Moulton Fourth- & Fifth-Grade Teacher

We want to hear from you!

Share your energy-related questions, comments or suggestions and they may be included in our *Energy Report Card*. Let us know if you have a co-worker or student with a green attitude? Just send the information about who, what, where, when and how to lisa.simpson@dmps.k12.ia.us.

Did You Know?

There has been a lot of energy information shared about what you can do to save energy at school. The same principles can be used in your homes as well. ENERGY STAR® provides many tips to get your home ready for fall. Launch **ENERGY STAR at home** and see how you can save energy and money at home while helping to protect the environment.



Teaching Others Energy Awareness

Learning about energy can begin at any age level. Today's students inhabit a rapidly changing world of increasing global interdependence. It is important that children have knowledge and resources to become conscientious environmental citizens. Our future depends largely upon the wisdom and respect students have for nature and choices they will make to protect it.



Five Reasons Why Teaching About Energy Is Essential

- ◆ Educating the public, including students, about the economic and environmental costs of energy use is one of the best ways to help curb energy waste. Students who can make energy-smart decisions will be more conscientious about wasting energy in their lifetimes.
- ◆ Helping students understand all aspects of a particular energy source — its availability, benefits, and monetary, environmental, and social costs — will help them make informed decisions about energy at home and at work.
- ◆ Interest in the development of renewable energy sources is of high priority. Teachers who learn about the energy-efficient innovations can integrate news about new emerging technologies into their curriculum.
- ◆ Studying energy is an excellent way to introduce students to science concepts and processes included in the National Science Education Standards.
- ◆ Implementing energy-efficient lesson plans at an early stage of child development will provide long-term benefits, such as an increase in awareness and lower energy usage over time.

Visit www.dmps.k12.ia.us for more details of the district's energy mission and strategies.

Cooler Weather Reminders

Please keep in mind that it is impossible to maintain a single temperature. The following are suggestions to help with a greater comfort level with the colder weather.



- ◆ Window Blinds — On cold days, turn window blinds downward. This allows you to use the winter sun for both lighting and heating. If the sun's rays can shine into your room, the amount of energy needed for heating can be reduced. On cold nights, turn blinds upward before you leave. Since cold air sinks and warm air rises, cold air will be trapped next to the window and warm air will remain in the room.
- ◆ Heating — Turn the thermostat down in the winter. Keeping thermostats set at a constant temperature allows the heating systems to run efficiently. The district has set-points to optimize efficiency in heating. For every degree above 68 degrees, there would be a 4 percent increase in consumption of natural gas according to MidAmerican Energy.
- ◆ Dress According to the Weather — It is impossible to maintain a single temperature and different people are comfortable at different temperatures. Dress for cold weather, layering clothes accommodates temperature variations.
- ◆ Air Vents — Although the air vent looks like a tempting book shelf, you can obstruct air flow and affect the temperature in the room. Keep vents clear to allow proper circulation, which also will help with better indoor air quality.
- ◆ Doors and Windows Open/Closed — Opening doors and windows makes the HVAC system work harder to maintain temperature set-points.

ENERGY REPORT CARD

Continued



Some fun Web sites for Energy Awareness Month ...

All Ages:

Energy Quest
HBO Family's Greenville
Kid's Corner
The Atoms Family
EIA Kids

Elementary:

EPA Kids Site
Kids Saving Energy
Energy Pirates
ENERGY STAR Kids

Middle School:

EPA Student Center
Touchstone Energy Kids Zone
Energy Hog

High School:

Energyville
Power Up
EPA High School Environment Center

(Just click the name to link to the Web site.)

As part of Energy Awareness Month, Facility Management has given teachers throughout the district energy-awareness media. These materials have been provided by MidAmerican Energy and ENERGY STAR® to bring awareness of energy conservation and the environmental impact of our actions.



Energy-related questions? You can e-mail them to lisa.simpson@dmps.k12.ia.us.

YEAR-TO-DATE SITE ENERGY USAGE REPORT

July 1, 2009 – August 31, 2009

(measured in kBtu/sq ft)

Ranked Lowest to Highest Energy User

Site	% Chg as compared to '08-'09	kBtu/SqFt	Site	% Chg as compared to '08-'09	kBtu/SqFt
McCombs			Phillips	-17%	3.77
Greenhouse	-60%	0.44	Jefferson	-31%	3.92
◆ McKee		0.61	● Central Campus	-21%	3.92
Howe	-32%	0.88	Hoyt	-35%	3.93
Wright	-19%	0.97	Oak Park	-9%	3.94
Mann	-22%	1.41	Weeks	5%	3.99
Cowles	-37%	1.42	Park Ave	-11%	4.01
Facility Mgmt	-24%	1.47	Smouse	-39%	4.10
Lincoln South	-43%	1.58	Monroe	-13%	4.20
Windsor	-35%	1.77	East Academy	-13%	4.24
Hillis	0%	1.77	Garton	-17%	4.40
Stowe	-14%	2.02	Carver	2%	4.40
Samuelson	-53%	2.06	McKinley	-26%	4.63
Aviation Lab	-19%	2.14	Moulton	-46%	4.85
Madison	-41%	2.18	Capitol View	-29%	4.90
Hiatt	-49%	2.21	East	-17%	4.94
▪ King		2.21	Merrill	31%	4.94
Harding	-30%	2.40	Lovejoy	-4%	5.15
Perkins	-12%	2.47	Studebaker	-38%	5.26
Casady	-6%	2.53	Lincoln	-17%	5.31
Greenwood	-24%	2.59	◆ Central Academy	-20%	5.53
Morris	-26%	2.76	Jackson	-1%	5.85
Hubbell	-16%	3.04	Downtown School	-17%	5.93
South Union	3%	3.15	McCombs	-27%	6.14
Goodrell	-23%	3.16	Welcome Center	-14%	6.26
Pleasant Hill	6%	3.24	Hoover/Meredith	-1%	6.35
● Roosevelt	-33%	3.25	River Plaza	-23%	6.41
Cattell	-30%	3.28	Edmunds	-11%	6.69
Brubaker	-20%	3.33	River Woods	-19%	6.89
Hanawalt	-7%	3.33	Van Meter	-40%	7.22
Findley	-32%	3.34	Brody	-20%	9.40
Callanan	-23%	3.37	Walnut Street	-12%	10.12
Willard	-21%	3.47			
North	-39%	3.51			

- Buildings under construction prior year
- Buildings occupied during renovations
- ◆ Building unoccupied part of comparison YTD