



**The School District of Osceola County, FL**  
Terry Andrews, Superintendent

**Press Release (English and Spanish)**

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**Osceola School District's Energy Conservation Success Results In National ENERGY STAR Leader Recognition**

The Osceola School District has been recently named an Energy Star Leader by the federal government's ENERGY STAR Program. This prestigious recognition is presented to the most energy efficient school districts in the country. The district was recognized by the EPA as an Energy Star Leader for improving its portfolio-wide energy efficiency by more than 20 percent.

"We are extremely pleased to receive this recognition from ENERGY STAR," said Cindy Hartig, School Board Chairman. "Our energy conservation efforts are saving taxpayer dollars while also helping protect our local environment." Since 2010, the school district has realized more than \$3,245,000 in energy savings and prevented the emissions of more than 8,600 metric tons of carbon dioxide, which is equivalent to the carbon sequestered by more than 220,500 tree seedlings planted and grown for 10 years.

The cost of utilities is the second largest budget line item for the Osceola School District, and the prices for electricity, natural gas, heating oil, and water have been steadily increasing. To combat these rising energy and utility costs, the district entered into a partnership with Energy Education, to implement a comprehensive organizational behavior-driven energy conservation program throughout all its buildings and campuses led by two energy specialists with ongoing training and oversight from engineers.

Earlier this year, the Osceola County School District also had 10 buildings earn EPA's ENERGY STAR certification. This recognition is presented to the most energy efficient buildings in the country. The buildings earning ENERGY STAR certification included Celebration High School, Chestnut Elementary School for Science and Engineering, Cypress Elementary School, Harmony High School, Koa Elementary School, Mill Creek Elementary School, Narcoossee Elementary School, Pleasant Hill Elementary School, Thacker Avenue Elementary for International Studies, and Westside K-8 School. To earn ENERGY STAR certification, school buildings must rate in the top 25 percent nationwide for energy efficiency.

"Each of us can make a difference through energy conservation, because people use energy, school buildings don't," said Hartig. "Students, teachers, and staff are part of a daily effort to improve the environment and save money districtwide. There are dozens and dozens of changes, large and small, that we have implemented that are saving energy without affecting our comfort or educational goals. We have all gained a real sense of accomplishment from these EPA ENERGY STAR's recognitions."

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