



Nine PPS Schools Earn U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® Certification for Energy Efficiency

At a ceremony on February 10 at Wilson High School in SW Portland, nine PPS schools were recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for achieving ENERGY STAR certification. To receive this certification, a building must perform in the top 25% of similar facilities nationwide for energy efficiency, and meet strict energy efficiency performance levels set by the EPA. ENERGY STAR schools use an average of 35% less energy, and also release 35% less carbon dioxide.

The PPS schools earning the rating are: Benson Polytechnic High School, Wilson High School, Cleveland High School, Stephenson Elementary School, Chapman Elementary School, James John Elementary School, Chief Joseph Elementary, Sunnyside Environmental K-8, and Richmond Elementary School.

"On behalf of the district, I would like to thank our students, staff, custodians, and maintenance staff for all of their efforts that led to this ENERGY STAR certification," said **Bob McKean, PPS Interim Superintendent**. "Energy conservation is a joint effort and it takes a mix of behavior, maintenance, ingenuity, and implementation. While this certification is primarily about our environmental stewardship, it also shows that we're saving a lot of money by lowering our energy costs."

PPS improved its energy performance by managing energy strategically across the entire organization through a number of cost-effective investments:

- Installing Direct Digital Control and building automation retrofits, which save energy by remotely controlling heating and ventilation in separate sections of schools;
- Replacing steam valves and steam traps;
- Insulating hot water pipes;
- Upgrading to more efficient lighting systems and controls.

Additional energy savings came through behavioral conservation by turning lights off and using natural lighting, and also powering off computers and small appliances when not in use. Improved operations and maintenance, such as adjusting temperature set points, has also helped PPS save energy in schools. Since July 2014, PPS has prevented greenhouse gas emissions equal to the electricity use from 615 households for a year, and has saved \$500,000 in energy costs.

Dora Taylor, EPA ENERGY STAR Regional Program Manager, was on hand to recognize the schools. "Improving the energy efficiency of our nation's buildings is critical to protecting our environment," said EPA's Dora Taylor. "In these schools, whether it be their boiler rooms or their classrooms, the committed students and staff across PPS are leading the way by making their buildings more efficient and earning EPA's ENERGY STAR certification. This is a job well done."

EPA's ENERGY STAR energy performance scale helps organizations assess how efficiently their buildings use energy relative to similar buildings nationwide. The program was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Today, the ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 65 different kinds of products, 1.4 million new homes, and 20,000 commercial buildings and industrial plants that meet strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the EPA.

The Energy Trust of Oregon is also helping PPS implement energy savings solutions in new schools and

building renovations underway through its Strategic Energy Management initiative, which assists organizations save energy by improving operations and maintenance practices.

“Energy Trust congratulates PPS for accomplishing ENERGY STAR certification on nine school buildings,” said Michael Colgrove, executive director of the nonprofit organization. “These certifications show a true commitment to creating high-performance buildings. Besides saving operating dollars that can be redirected into the classroom, these improvements create more comfortable and healthier learning and working environments for students and teachers.”