The Greenest Little Schools in the Midwest

And what we can do to get there...

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Overview

- Getting Started
- Obstacles
- Planning
Where to start

- In order to have a truly viable sustainable curriculum, you must start with making facilities as sustainable as possible.
- Falls into three groups
  - New facilities
  - Existing facilities
  - Functions within buildings
Find a Champion

- **School Board Member**
  - Must have them on board
  - They can educate/direct the administration

- **Administrator**
  - Best to have them on board
  - They can educate the board

- **Teacher & Staff**
  - Best to have them on board
  - They bring passion and support

- **Students**
  - Naturally on board
  - This is something that is in line with their futures

- Best when all are on board, but not always possible.
Potential Conflicts

- **Board/Administration not on board**
  - Education is the key
  - Address the passions of each (i.e. financial benefits to CFO)

- **Staff not on board**
  - A well thought out curriculum
  - Give them the tools
  - Get their input from the start

- **Finances**
  - Work with DCEO and others for funding
  - Look at long term costs rather than short term
  - Have audits done to determine feasibility

- **Champaign Challenge:**
  - We have a facility champion, we are working on the administration and curriculum champions
Champaign Case Study

- Board member as champion
  - Show energy impact over time
  - Apply for grants
  - Educate administration/staff
  - Tie into STEM magnet curriculum
  - Do not give up (whoever is champion)

- How did we do this?
  - Energy audits
  - Benchmark existing schools
  - Apply for grants
  - Give presentations to board/administration/schools
  - Encourage no cost/low cost strategies first
  - Provide incentives to staff to change
Champaign Washington School

- Board direction to get LEED certification
  - State requirement anyway
- STEM magnet school benefits from added features
  - PV
  - Wind
  - LEED Gold
  - Landscaping
  - Applied for many grants
    - DCEO new construction
    - Clean Energy Foundation – LEED Gold
    - Community Gardens
  - Teachers/community involved in planning
PV Grants

- Applied for grants to incorporate photovoltaics (PVs) into all middle and high school curriculums across three districts
  - Champaign Unit 4
  - Urbana District 116
  - University Laboratory High School (UofI)

- An effort over an entire community to demonstrate energy efficiency.
  - Brings in University of Illinois Engineering
  - Low-income students in all schools get benefit
SEDAC

- Funding by IL DCEO in partnership w/ Ameren and ComEd.
  - Managed by UofI School of Architecture
- Provide energy audits of new or proposed buildings
  - Including schools
- At no cost
  - Paid for through your utility bills
SEDAC School Audits

- Have audited over 50 existing schools
  - Average energy savings of 29%
  - Some included renewables.
  - Cost savings average 31%.
  - Average savings for K-12 was $48,636.

- New Construction incentive program administered for DCEO
Illinois School Benchmarks (K-12)
‘No-Cost’ Strategies

- Involve the students!
  - Clubs, class work
- Benchmark Schools
- Establish a recognition program
  - $1000 back to school that reduces 10%
- Assign Responsibility
  - Staff or a class
- Turn off lighting
  - Hang tags for those who don’t
- Establish a plug load plan
  - Know how much power equipment uses
- Close windows and doors when HVAC is on
  - Stop infiltration
- Savings from 10 – 15%
Easy Things to Do in the Classrooms

- Assign an individual or class to track monthly energy use, chart, and make information available to the school.
- Make teachers and staff aware of opportunities to save energy and how to do it.
- Note where improvements can be made.
- Create environmental clubs.
- Encourage PTA gardening groups.
- Fundraisers for light bulbs, cell phones, and batteries.
To Apply for SEDAC Assistance

- Call 1-800-214-7954 or,
- Visit the SEDAC website at [www.sedac.org](http://www.sedac.org) and download an application.