



NEWS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Decatur County Community Schools' Energy Conservation Success Results In Nation's First-Ever ENERGY STAR 50 Percent Leader Recognition

More than \$629,000 saved by district

GREENSBURG — Decatur County Community Schools announced today the district has achieved the nation's first-ever 50 Percent Energy Star Leader designation by the federal government's ENERGY STAR® Program. This prestigious recognition is presented to the most energy efficient organizations in the country. Decatur County Community Schools was recognized because it has accomplished significant energy efficiency improvements district-wide and ranked in the top 25 percent of school districts for energy conservation savings.

"We are extremely pleased to receive this unprecedented recognition from ENERGY STAR," said Dr. Daniel Roach, superintendent of Decatur County Community Schools. "Our energy conservation efforts are saving taxpayer dollars while also helping protect our local environment. Since we began partnering with the conservation experts at Energy Education on a serious energy conservation program we have saved \$629,000 and the environmental impact is equal to taking 752 cars off the street or planting 107,206 trees in our community. We are proud that our energy saving success is being recognized by ENERGY STAR."

"Improving the energy efficiency of schools, commercial buildings, and homes is critical to protecting our environment," said Cheryl Newton, Director of EPA Region 5 Air and Radiation Division. "The Decatur Schools have taken significant strides to reduce their environmental impact through the improving the energy performance of their facilities. In addition, the District is shaping future leaders in the fight against climate change by not only teaching the importance of saving energy but living it every day in the classroom. Organizations like the Decatur School District are leading the way by reaching this milestone and earning EPA's ENERGY STAR."

The award will be presented to the district Board of Education at the September 8 meeting.

To combat rising energy and utility costs, the district entered into a partnership with Energy Education to implement a comprehensive people-driven energy conservation program throughout all its buildings and campuses. Energy Education guarantees the conservation program will save taxpayer dollars. Since the program was first implemented, Decatur County Community Schools has reduced energy consumption by 50 percent.

"Each of us can make a difference through energy conservation, because people use energy, school buildings don't," said Superintendent Roach. "Don Lewellyn, our Energy Education Specialist, leads our school community in a daily effort to improve the environment and save money district-wide, which in turn permits current funds to be utilized elsewhere. Many changes, both large and small have been implemented to realize energy savings without affecting our comfort or educational goals. In the process, we have all gained a sense of accomplishment from EPA's recognition."



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ENERGY STAR Leaders manage energy strategically across an entire portfolio of buildings using EPA's standardized measurement tool for tracking building energy use. These select organizations are recognized by EPA for improving the energy performance of their portfolio by ten percent or more. The highest leaders recognition identifies those organizations with portfolios that perform in the top 25 percent of energy efficiency nationwide based upon the average of the buildings in the portfolio.

ENERGY STAR 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 60 different kinds of products, new homes and commercial and industrial buildings. Products and buildings that have earned the ENERGY STAR designation prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the government. Last year alone, Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved nearly \$17 billion on their energy bills while reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 30 million vehicles. Learn more at energystar.gov/leaders

Energy Education's innovative Transformational Energy Management™ process trains client personnel to implement behavioral and organizational change that substantially reduces energy consumption without the purchase of new equipment. The program is funded solely and rapidly by the savings it generates, allowing clients to redirect saved energy dollars to other priorities. In 24 years, Energy Education has worked with more than 1,000 educational and ministry organizations, helping clients save over \$2 billion in utility costs. Energy Education was named 2009 & 2010 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

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