



STATE OF WISCONSIN

BARBARA LAWTON
LT. GOVERNOR

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Contact: Jim Rosenberg, Lt. Governor's Office, 608-266-3516

Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton Welcomes EPA for Presentation of ENERGY STAR School Awards in Fort Atkinson

FORT ATKINSON — Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton joined Jack Barnette of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to lead ceremonies for the presentation of two prestigious EPA ENERGY STAR awards to School District of Fort Atkinson officials at Purdy Elementary School in Fort Atkinson today. The awards recognize Purdy and Barrie elementary schools for performing in the top 25 percent in energy efficiency for buildings of this type. To earn the ENERGY STAR certification, buildings must use an average of 35 percent less energy than a typical building of the same size.

“The School District of Fort Atkinson explores every available avenue to pave the way to an energy efficient future – from changing the bulbs to digging for geothermal to capturing solar and wind power,” said Lt. Governor Lawton. “And students at Purdy and Barrie Elementary Schools learn first-hand that their leadership can change the world, and provide savings that can be redirected into the classroom.”

Although they had already set initiatives to save energy in operations, Fort Atkinson accepted Lt. Governor Lawton’s challenge to improve their energy efficiency even further and expanded their programs. Purdy Elementary School

unveiled its new solar photovoltaic system at the event. The system produces electricity directly from solar energy and it will provide for approximately 3.5 percent of Purdy Elementary School's electrical demand.

The School District of Fort Atkinson improved its energy performance by managing energy strategically across the entire organization, making cost-effective improvements to its buildings and involving students. Third, fourth and fifth graders in each elementary school took the lead to earn ENERGY STAR certification. Working with teachers, staff, maintenance personnel and building engineers, students measured building square footage, learned about energy-efficient technologies, determined equipment operating hours, counted the number of computers and helped take lighting, temperature, humidity and ventilation measurements for each building.

As a result, the district's overall energy usage has dropped by 39 percent, with a cost savings of 20 percent compared to 2005. Some of the energy-efficiency and renewable projects the district completed include:

- Replacing windows to improve air sealing and reduce heat loss;
- Upgrading to energy-efficient lighting to improve light quality, reduce maintenance and save more than \$70,000 annually;
- Installing occupancy sensors, where appropriate;
- Utilizing ground source (geothermal) heat pump systems in lieu of gas boilers in four buildings. These systems reduce energy consumption by 50% while providing fully air conditioned buildings.
- Installing solar hot-water systems in two schools to heat swimming pools. Together, these systems save over \$17,000 annually with a return on investment of seven years. The systems work year around and many days completely replace the gas back-up systems.
- Completing a solar photovoltaic system that will generate 19.7 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually.

- Converting school buses to run off LP instead of gasoline;
- Installing instantaneous (tankless) domestic water heaters in most of the districts buildings;
- Using better roof insulation to increase R-value;
- Installing PC energy management controls to power down computers when not in use.

The district is in the process of evaluating the possibility of installing a wind generator in early 2011, and is working toward achieving ENERGY STAR certifications in all district buildings -- in two more schools in the coming school year, and the final two in 2011-2012.

“The School District of Fort Atkinson is pleased to accept ENERGY STAR certification in recognition of our energy efficiency efforts,” said District Administrator Dr. James Fitzpatrick. “Through this achievement, we have demonstrated our commitment to environmental stewardship, while also lowering our energy costs.”

To complete its energy-efficiency and renewable energy projects, the School District of Fort Atkinson took advantage of financial incentives and technical expertise from its electricity provider, We Energies, along with Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy. In partnership with energy utilities, Focus on Energy helps businesses and residents across the state identify and evaluate energy-saving opportunities, provide recommendations, arrange training opportunities and offer financial incentives.

About the School District of Fort Atkinson:

For more information about the School District of Fort Atkinson, visit:

www.fortschools.org.

About ENERGY STAR:

EPA's ENERGY STAR energy performance scale helps organizations assess how efficiently their buildings use energy relative to similar buildings nationwide. A building that scores a 75 or higher on EPA's 1-100 scale is eligible for the ENERGY STAR. Commercial buildings that can earn the ENERGY STAR include offices, bank branches, financial centers, retail stores, courthouses, hospitals, hotels, K-12 schools, medical offices, supermarkets, dormitories, houses of worship, and warehouses.

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 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 the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 30 million vehicles. For more information about ENERGY STAR visit www.energystar.gov/buildings .

About Focus on Energy:

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information, call 800-762-7077 or visit www.focusonenergy.com.

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