

*Rosedale Elementary in Hillsboro is a LEED Gold school with several energy efficiency technology updates, including new windows.*



**Leading Oregon to a safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable energy future.**

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## Oregon's Energy Efficient Schools Program



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY

The Oregon Department of Energy has been serving Oregon public schools statewide for more than 40 years. We provide expertise to support energy efficiency practices and projects, which helps our schools create better learning environments for the next generation of Oregonians.

Our public schools are a vital part of our community, helping students learn and thrive. The Oregon Department of Energy Schools Team has proudly worked with every school district – statewide – on energy-saving ideas and projects.

### Why should schools invest in energy-efficient projects?

One of the main benefits to increasing your energy efficiency is lower utility bills! In addition to saving money, energy-efficient buildings are typically more comfortable, provide better lighting, and have fewer energy-related maintenance issues. It all adds up to an improved learning and teaching environment for students and educators.

### What services can the Schools Team provide?

#### Expertise and Advice

Tell us about your district's energy usage, project needs or what your school needs to be successful. Are your buildings too cold? Running up high electricity bills? Leaking air through outdated windows? We're here to listen and brainstorm solutions with you.

#### Energy Partners and Resources

The Oregon Department of Energy's team can connect with you with our energy partners, including the U.S. Department of Energy and Better Buildings, ENERGY STAR Schools, Oregon utilities, and others.

#### Educational Opportunities

Our engineers and experts enjoy visiting classrooms at all learning levels, from joining Career Day panels to talking about basic energy concepts, energy saving tips, and supporting student "green teams".

Learn more at ODOE's Schools and Public Buildings webpage:  
[www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/Schools-and-Public-Buildings.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/Schools-and-Public-Buildings.aspx)



*At Whitworth Elementary in Dallas, workers installed new LED lighting in classrooms and hallways.*

### What financial or incentive programs are available to my school?

#### Public Purpose Charge (SB 1149) Schools Program

Senate Bill 1149 (1999) requires that Oregon’s two largest investor-owned utilities, Portland General Electric and Pacific Power, collect a Public Purpose Charge from customers. Ten percent of those funds are provided to public schools in PGE and Pacific Power service areas for energy audits, energy efficiency projects, fleet audits, electric vehicles, and charging stations. In cooperation with the school districts, ODOE facilitates the administration of the Public Purpose Charge (SB 1149) Schools Program.

#### Utility Resources

Your local utilities may have additional resources available such as, technical staff for assistance on projects and/or incentives.

Our Schools Team can help connect you with your local utility or you can contact them directly to find out how they can help. Schools within PGE, Pacific Power, Northwest Natural, Cascade Natural and Avista utility territories can work with Energy Trust for available incentives.

#### Energy Saving Performance Contracting

Performance contracting uses a single procurement method to complete a package of services through an energy services company (ESCO). The ESCO can provide “turn-key” services and perform energy efficiency improvements, as well as guarantee the energy savings and delivers a project that should pay for itself in energy savings. We offer guidance to help schools understand how to use this service.

### A few highlights from our Schools program:

#### Dallas School District

The district retrofitted lighting to LED technology in phases at Whitworth Elementary School. The school completed the first phase of the lighting measure in conjunction with a seismic project and they were so pleased, they decided to complete the remaining lighting throughout the school to LED as a second phase. The lighting measure received both PPC funds and Energy Trust incentives to reduce the out-of-pocket cost to the district. The measure is estimated to save just over \$3,000 a year in energy costs.

#### Umatilla School District

Many energy efficiency measures were completed, including control upgrades at all three schools in the district that leveraged bond funds with PPC funds and utility incentives. The measures add up to about \$25,000 in estimated energy savings each year. The district is also developing ongoing energy use teams that include students (grades 5-12) and staff.

#### Hillsboro School District

The district has been working with ODOE and Energy Trust of Oregon to stretch the district’s bond funds with PPC funds and Energy Trust incentives for energy projects. In 2019, the district completed multiple energy measures at nine different schools. The energy measures are estimated to save just over \$109,000 each year in energy costs. The district has spent the estimated PPC funds that they will receive through the end of the program but is continuing to implement additional energy measures using Energy Trust incentives wherever possible.

### Get Started!

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