

Cenergistic helps school district save energy, help environment

The Wakulla County School District is benefitting from a five-year partnership with energy conservation company Cenergistic. Using a behavior-focused approach, Cenergistic seeks to save institutions money while also teaching people the benefits of caring for their environment.

“Not only are we using the cost savings to put towards programs for our students,” said Superintendent Bobby Pearce, “we are also being good stewards of the finite amount of energy we have available in this country.”

Some of the improvements that have been possible due to utility cost savings include the implementation of the Wakulla High School Welding Program, plus opening up the Welding shop for community classes at night.

In addition, the long-awaited new WHS gym floor will be assured longevity due to better vigilance on keeping the correct temperature in the gym so the floor won’t buckle.

New portables were also purchased to move the Wakulla Institute alternative school from Sopchoppy to a more centralized Crawfordville location.

Since partnering with Cenergistic from July 2012, the energy savings to the Wakulla School District is now at 30.2 percent. This energy reduction impact is equal to 2,047 passenger cars not driven for one year, or 251,916 tree seedlings grown for 10 years.

Cenergistic seeks to empower their clients to reduce their energy and water footprint by 30 percent or more. The average of the current 22,000 facilities served is a 26 percent utility cost savings. Their clients consist of school



Wakulla Schools Energy Specialist Beth Brown works with the Cenergistic system.

districts, colleges and universities, healthcare facilities, and churches in 48 states.

“I’m excited that we have broken the 30 percent mark in so short a time,” said Wakulla’s Energy Specialist Beth Brown. “The key to making this work is the buy-in from our Wakulla School District employees. I love working with the Maintenance Department. The foremen and crews at every school are willing to do whatever it takes to make this work, as are the teachers and other school personnel.”

Brown, previously a 22-year educator in the Wakulla school system, works diligently to get people on board with energy conservation, including electricity, gas, water and sewer. With her teaching background, she relies on an understanding of human behavior to help people see the benefits for themselves and for generations to come.

A typical day has her monitoring several schools’ energy use. She knows the after-hours and weekend schedules of all schools and can override the thermostat controls and adjust for exterior and interior lighting needs. In fact, she and the Wakulla Information Technology Department work together so she can monitor emails and websites advertising school events.

Partnering with Cenergistic is budget-neutral, meaning there are no upfront costs.

“Conserving our natural resources while creating a better environment for our employees and students has made our partnership with Cenergistic worth keeping,” Pearce said.

Statistics

Performance Period	QuickStart March – June 2012 Program July 2012 – February 2017
Percent Savings	30.2%
Performance Months	56
Physical Information	9 schools 95% AC 85% EMS
Annual Utility Spend Before Program	\$1.5 Million
Enrollment	5,000+
Energy Specialist	One full-time