

Mansfield ISD Receives Highest State Environmental Excellence Award

Mansfield ISD’s energy efficiency program was recognized by the Office of the Governor and The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) with their Innovative Operations/Management award, the state’s highest environmental honor given by TCEQ.

MISD is the only school district in Texas to earn this distinction at the 25th annual Texas Environmental Excellence Awards ceremony. These prestigious awards bring attention to the most innovative and effective projects that strive to protect the state’s natural resources.

“As a public school district, we are not only educators, we are stewards of our community’s resources,” said Mansfield ISD Superintendent Dr. Jim Vaszauskas. “Our leadership makes it a priority to steward those resources well and for the past ten years our energy conservation programs have dramatically increased our energy efficiency, saved tax dollars and encouraged a culture that teaches our students and staff to practice energy saving behaviors at home as well as at school.”

MISD serves more than 33,000 students across more than 6 million square feet of building area. The district is committed to energy conservation and encourages its students and community to join them in saving energy at school and at home.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- Reducing utility costs by more than \$1.8 million, improving energy efficiency by more than 21% across district schools and cutting more than 5,550 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in 2016.
- Reducing water usage by over 86 million gallons through smart irrigation practices, prompt responses to plumbing and irrigation maintenance work orders and preventative maintenance.
- Saving more than \$7.1 million since 2012 through concerted conservation efforts, working with Cenergistic and benchmarking district buildings in ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager®.
- Reducing electrical usage by over 9 million kilowatt hours through targeted scheduling of building systems, preventative maintenance of lighting and HVAC equipment and educating students and staff on efficient practices in classrooms and offices.
- Earning more ENERGY STAR re-certifications than any district in the state of Texas — 41 schools and support facilities have earned a total of 293 ENERGY STAR re-certifications in the past 10 years.
- Inspiring nearly a 1,000 students to take the ENERGY STAR Pledge to save energy.



Texas Environmental Excellence Awards:

Mansfield Independent School District — Innovative Operations / Management

Energy Conservation Program reduces electricity, natural gas, and water use.

You might think that immense capital investments would be needed to drastically reduce utility expenses across an entire school district. While that might be true in most circumstances, for one North Texas school district, a shift in mindset and behavior was enough to reduce its expenses and save the district nearly \$7 million since 2012—money it now uses elsewhere in the district to improve the learning experience for students.

Mansfield Independent School District started its Energy Conservation Program in 2012 with three primary goals: reduce the environmental impact of school district operations; reduce overall utility expenditures by 20 percent; and educate students, teachers, and community members about their roles in implementing efficient practices.

To achieve these goals, the Mansfield board of trustees hired two energy specialists from existing staff to develop a program to maximize environmental benefits and financial savings. The comprehensive plan the specialists designed focuses on precise scheduling of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and lighting runtimes; close monitoring of water bills to detect leaks; and replacing light bulbs with new energy-efficient LED bulbs.

Another important aspect of the program is the deep connection that the energy specialists make with the stakeholders (such as teachers, administrators, kitchen managers, custodians, and students). These relationships make energy efficiency fun and increase participation.

On any given day, you will see the energy specialists walking through the halls on one of their 2,500-plus yearly building audits, high-fiving students and commending teachers for their efforts to reduce energy use.

They work closely with campus administrators to provide them with feedback on how well their campus is supporting the cause for energy efficiency.

The specialists go beyond working with just adults. Each year, they present information to more than 1,000 elementary school students, which inspired them to start Watt Watcher teams. Operated by students and supervised by teachers, these teams inspect their campuses after school to make sure computers are shut down, lights are turned off, and the school is implementing efficient energy practices.

The Energy Conservation Program created significant reductions in utility expenses. Since inception, the district has saved 40 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, 20,599 thousand cubic feet of natural gas, and over 450 million gallons of water.

This district-wide program shows that, with everyone working together, significant environmental and economic benefits can be attained, lighting the way to a sustainable future.

Mansfield ISD Program Statistics

Performance Period	QuickStart: July 2012 – December 2012 Program: January 2013 – December 2016
Dollar Savings	\$7,020,004
Percent Savings	19.7%
Performance Months	48
Physical Information	60+ buildings 6.3M Sq Feet Two Energy Specialists
Annual Utility Spend Before Program	\$6.9 million