

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:
Arlene Gavin
Performance Services, Inc.
(317) 713-1750 x 2421
agavin@performanceservices.com

MSD of Southwest Allen County Geothermal Schools Earn the ENERGY STAR

Fort Wayne, Indiana May 4, 2009. Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) has received notification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that three elementary schools in the district have been awarded the prestigious ENERGY STAR® label in recognition for their superior energy efficiency and indoor air quality. The three schools, Covington, Lafayette Meadows and Haverhill elementary all share the distinction of utilizing geothermal renewable energy systems for heating and cooling the school buildings. According to the EPA, geothermal based systems are the most energy-efficient, environmentally clean and cost-effective systems for heating and cooling. During the heating cycle, a geothermal system uses the earth loop to extract heat from the ground. In the cooling mode, a geothermal system cools the school buildings by reversing the heating process. Instead of taking heat from the ground, it is removed from the facility and moved back into the earth loop.

“Southwest Allen County Schools has a district-wide commitment to energy conservation and cost containment. As a result, we elected to go with a geothermal system for our two new elementary schools and their high performance led us to pursue a unique geothermal solution offered by Performance Services when renovating Haverhill elementary. Before the renovation Haverhill was our least efficient school in terms of energy use, but now the school is 34% more energy efficient and the clean energy solution has reduced energy costs at Haverhill by \$28,837 in 2008 alone,” said Mike Lindsey, Director of Maintenance Services for SACS. The district partnered with Performance Services, an Indianapolis based energy saving company, on the Haverhill renovation through a performance based guaranteed energy savings contract.

“It is imperative for schools to search for ways to become more energy efficient and send an important message to the community, teachers, and students. The message is that schools will lead by example in finding ways to help protect the environment. Heating and cooling systems are some of the most notoriously inefficient utilities in schools. It’s a win-win when those utilities can be modified to be more effective and efficient. A school’s carbon footprint is reduced while the savings can be redirected to children in the classroom,” said Dr. Brian Smith, Superintendent.

“It’s been our pleasure to work with the innovative staff at Southwest Allen schools. It’s rewarding to create a clean energy solution that reduces energy costs and produces a quality learning environment for every student,” said Tim Thoman, President of Performance Services, an ENERGY STAR partner. The company has provided energy solutions to Indiana schools for 10 years and is the leading provider of guaranteed energy savings contracts with more than 90 successful school projects. The company offers traditional and renewable energy solutions, including wind power and geothermal systems to K-12 and higher education.

For more information about Southwest Allen County Schools, visit www.sacs.k12.in.us

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