



K-12 School Energy Program

Program Overview

The Governor's Energy Office (GEO) offers the *K-12 School Energy Program*. In 2007, Governor Ritter signed House Bill 1309 requiring GEO to improve energy efficiency in all Colorado schools. To accomplish this directive, GEO has developed the *K-12 School Energy Program*. In addition to offering support and guidance to school districts interested in increasing energy efficiency, GEO offers three opportunities for schools to receive grant funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Benefits to Schools

In most school districts, utility costs are second only to salary as the greatest expense. GEO helps schools reduce energy costs, allowing them to reallocate these savings toward improved facilities and academics through the energy efficiency programs. In addition to the economic benefits of energy efficiency, several studies have shown that the implementation of high performance design techniques such as daylighting can actually increase the academic performance of students.

Performance Contracting

Energy performance contracting is an affordable way to make investments in new energy efficiency equipment today. Here's how it works: A school enters into an agreement with a GEO approved private energy service company (ESCO). The ESCO will identify energy-saving opportunities and then recommend and install a package of improvements to be paid for through the savings. If savings aren't realized, the ESCO pays the difference, not the school! To simplify the process and ensure the highest level of quality, GEO has pre-approved 11 ESCOs to implement performance contracts in Colorado. A list of all approved ESCOs can be found at www.colorado.gov/energy.

High Performance Design

Are you building a new school? A high performance school building is energy efficient, has low lifecycle costs, is healthy for its occupants, and has a reduced impact on the environment. High performance buildings use primary resources such as energy, water, materials and land much more efficiently than buildings built to code. Each design decision regarding site orientation, design, window location and treatments, lighting, heating, air conditioning, ventilation, insulation, material selection, and controls must be integrated throughout the design, construction and operation in order to create a high performance building. Third party oversight of this process is available from GEO at no additional cost.

Sponsorship Opportunities

GEO would like to partner with school districts throughout the state for the implementation of the *K-12 School Energy Program*. The following three opportunities are intended to provide participants with the necessary funding to implement efficiency measures in their facilities.

1. Renewable Energy in Performance Contracting Grant

If you have done, or are thinking about doing a performance contract, you may be eligible for funds to decrease the cost of incorporating renewable energy technology into your performance contract.



Governor's Energy Office

2. High Performance Design Grant

GEO is eager to help school districts achieve the *LEED® For Schools* certification for all new facilities. If you are building a new facility, you are encouraged to apply for matched grant funds to incorporate high performance design into your project.

3. Utility Bills Database

GEO is developing a statewide buildings utility bill management system that will allow participants to track their energy consumption, and analyze potential for energy efficiency measures. GEO offers schools matched grant funding to participate in this system.

A 100% matching contribution is required for all grants, although a higher level of support is encouraged. GEO provides partners with program implementation guidelines, marketing resources, technical training opportunities, program tracking tools, and both state and federal program support and resources.

GEO Success Story – Zach Elementary School, Poudre School District

Poudre School District in Fort Collins used high performance design to build a new prototype elementary school that has lower overall energy bills than the 1990 model that is 22% larger.

“Instead of costing more, the new elementary came in under budget at \$100 per square foot – below the average of \$120 per square foot for front range schools,” Reported Stu Reeves, the district’s Energy Manager.

Zach Elementary is a showcase for many innovative energy efficiency features including daylighting design and controls, super insulation, CO₂ sensors for ventilation, and thermal storage. The school also used many recycled materials including carpet, siding, and cabinets. The design will create repeat benefits for the district as it was used for additional schools in 2003 & 2004. Visit the Poudre School District’s website for more information about these projects: www.psd.k12.co.us/construction.

How to Participate

If you are interested in GEO’s *K-12 School Energy Program*, complete and submit the Interest Form available on at www.colorado.gov/energy. Submission of the Interest Form does not commit you becoming a partner with GEO, but rather informs GEO that you are interested in scheduling a follow-up meeting to discuss the program in more detail.

For More Information

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