



BPS Energy Conservation Campaign – 2015 Frequently Asked Question

Q: What are the goals of the Energy Conservation Campaign?

A: The Energy Conservation Campaign is focused on engaging occupants in all BPS buildings to make small changes in their behavior to save valuable environmental resources and cut costs. Schools will compete against one another to reduce electricity usage over a three month period. Schools will receive monthly reports showcasing progress. Teachers, staff, students and visitors will learn about why energy conservation is important and simple ways they can take action to reduce the resources used in their office or classroom.

Learn more by visiting: www.bostongreenschools.org/energy

The overall goal is to **achieve at least a 5% savings in energy usage across all BPS owned and operated buildings** between December 2015 and March 2016. The buildings that save the most compared to their weather adjusted baseline (previous year's usage) will receive a financial incentive at the close of the campaign and be recognized publicly. By reducing utility costs, BPS can allocate more money to funding teacher salaries, purchasing classroom supplies and making needed repairs to our school buildings.

Q: Why is this Energy Conservation Campaign important?

A: The energy and water used in BPS buildings costs the district about \$20 million dollars annually. Burning fossil fuels to provide electricity and heat and cool our buildings contributes to global climate change. Energy & Water Conservation is important because it:

1. Is good for the environment
2. Saves the district money
3. Improves the local economy
4. Improves national security
5. Ensures future generations will have the same quality of life

Q: What is the timeline of the Conservation Campaign?

A: The BPS Energy Conservation Campaign timeline is as follows:

- **Kick off December 1, 2015, runs through February 29, 2016**
- Announce winning schools in April
- Identify how the school will use its winning funds as a building improvement project that will be coordinated and funded by BPS Facilities
- Host celebrations for the winning schools around Earth Day in April

Q: What are the prizes or recognition for schools that save at least 5%?

A: Schools that save will receive real prizes!

While we would love to offer no strings attached cash prizes to schools who meet their 5% reduction goal, the savings that schools achieve must be applied back to the school through a facilities improvement project.

Good examples of ways to use your savings include buying smart power strips, fixing broken blinds, upgrading lighting or lighting controls, repairing leaky windows or doors, etc.

Q: What if our school occupies two different buildings?

A: Each building with a dedicated energy and water meter will receive their own monthly energy report and their usage will be tracked separately. Each separately metered building that saves at least 5% over their baseline will receive an incentive.

Q: What if there are multiple school programs in the same building?

A: For the handful of school buildings that have multiple programs on one site, school administrators are encouraged to coordinate messaging and education about this Energy Conservation Campaign. Because these buildings only have one utility meter, we cannot split out the energy usage for the different school programs.

The energy usage of the building will be reported cumulatively for all programs and sent to all program administrators or departmental directors. If a 5% reduction in usage is achieved the school programs will split the associated incentives.

Q: What about administrative buildings?

A: BPS Administrative buildings are just as important as our schools when it comes to conserving resources. Energy conservation reports will be compiled for these buildings and communicated to the leaders of each department within the building. If a 5% reduction in usage is achieved, Facilities will still allocate the savings in the form of a building improvement project.

Q: What if our building serves dual purposes with a community center or admin offices?

A: Each building will be benchmarked against itself, so as long as the operations of the building matches the previous several years of operations, there will be no penalty for sites that have pools, larger cafeterias, offices, etc.

Q: How does my school compare to other schools?

A: An Energy Conservation Challenge report will be sent each month highlighting how you are doing towards your 5% reduction goal as well as how your building is performing compared to others across the district. Final results will be published at the close of the campaign for all BPS buildings.

Because our utility bills are delayed by at least three weeks after the close of the month, reporting will be delayed as well. It's not ideal but it's the only data that we have to work with right now.

Q: What about weather differences between years?

A: The data will be adjusted to account for weather differences.

Q: Who do I contact if inefficiencies are found in our building and we want to take action?

A: If staff or students identify inefficiencies or broken systems, the designated representative(s) from the school should submit a work order to Facilities Management. Facilities Management makes ongoing improvements to buildings such as installing door sweeps, fixing leaking faucets, or addressing over heated rooms – all of which are important strategies to reducing energy usage.

Q: What can I do to take action to reduce energy and water?

A: Some of the easiest and most impactful actions that a building occupant can take to save energy and water in their school is to:

1. Turn off lights when you leave the room.
2. Keep vents and radiators unobstructed and keep them clean, this is your source of heat and ventilation.
3. Close doors & windows to keep heat in or out.
4. Turn off computers, computer monitors, and printers when not in use.

5. Open up the blinds to let in natural light, and turn off the classroom lights.
6. Dress for the weather to avoid using space heaters or fans.
7. Remove unnecessary, and often illegal, appliances, such as mini-fridges, microwaves, and heaters.
8. Conserve water by turning off faucets when not needed, and reporting leaks immediately.

[Download](#) the 8 Tips Poster to hang around your school.

Q: How can I get my school educated and engaged in the Energy Conservation Campaign?

A: Schools are encouraged to connect the Energy Conservation Campaign to curriculum and hands on learning opportunities in the classroom. There are examples of curriculum lessons here: www.bostongreenschools.org/energy.

Schools across the country that have achieved the greatest reductions through campaigns like this have one thing in common – they have ENGAGED STUDENTS. Green Teams are made up of students and staff tasked with identifying and taking action on energy conservation opportunities in the building. The teams encourage and empower fellow building occupants to conserve energy and spread the word about energy conservation goals and accomplishments.

Q: What is the BPS Facilities Management Department doing to save energy in our buildings?

A: One of the easiest ways to conserve energy and water is to upgrade old, inefficient systems with new, more efficient appliances and technology. Facilities Management partners with the local utility companies, who have great financial incentives, to retrofit lights as well as heating and cooling systems. These efforts help improve the operation of the building, enhance the comfort of the building occupants and also save the district money. In addition to these regular retrofits, BPS is in the process of developing a Capital Master Plan, which will include long-term energy conservation strategies to reduce the district’s greenhouse gas emissions and utility costs.

Q: Who do I contact with questions about the campaign?

A: The Energy Conservation Campaign is being managed out of the Facilities Department.

- Program rules, resources or general questions, please contact Phoebe Beierle, Sustainability Manager, pbeierle@bostonpublicschools.org or 617-635-9138
- Specific energy usage or energy reporting questions, please contact Elie Nassif, Energy Specialist, enassif@bostonpublicschools.org or 617-635-8740
- Learn more on the website – www.bostongreenschools.org/energy