

SUCCESS STORY

UTILITY BILL VERIFIED SAVINGS



Commitment to Energy Efficiency

Wauwatosa School District is a suburban district committed to providing quality education while maintaining efficient and sustainable school operations. In 2018, the District passed a \$124.9 million referendum to modernize its aging facilities, upgrading HVAC, security, and building automation systems (BAS). In late 2023, Director of Buildings & Grounds Kevin LaFountain learned about the Utility Bill Verified Savings offering from FOCUS ON ENERGY®. This offering supports energy-saving efforts not directly tied to the installation of new equipment, with savings verified through regular monitoring of utility bills. The District chose Longfellow Middle School as a test site, building on prior BAS, HVAC, and lighting upgrades.

Energy Reduction Strategies

The District's Operations Coordinator, Kevin Heus, collaborated with HVA Products, Inc., to fine-tune the temperature control system and optimize energy use. Their work included:

- ⇒ Quarterly functional performance testing and calibration of controllers, sensors, dampers, and related components.
- ⇒ Ongoing BAS commissioning and review of equipment schedules.
- ⇒ Remote support and monitoring.
- ⇒ Upgrading the BAS graphical interface.

With guidance from Focus on Energy, the District also integrated all 14 school buildings into ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager® for comprehensive benchmarking and performance tracking.

Additionally, Wauwatosa refined its energy management approach by:



Maximizing energy efficiency and extending equipment lifespans by scheduling HVAC systems and lighting to align with building occupancy and after-school events.



Utilizing automation system insights and troubleshooting to detect and resolve inefficiencies and system overrides.



Scheduling BAS training for building supervisors in 2025 to support effective facility operations following recently established best practices.



Just as students use benchmarks to measure academic progress, schools must benchmark their buildings to track energy performance. Understanding where you stand is the first step toward making efficiency improvements.

Kevin LaFountain
Director of Buildings & Grounds
Wauwatosa School District

Longfellow Middle School Energy Savings & Results:

- **Annual Energy Savings:**
100,667 kWh, 11,701 therms
- **Focus on Energy Incentive:**
\$9,439
- **ENERGY STAR Score:**
65 (Previously, 58)
- **Total Energy Costs:**
21% Reduction
- **Energy Use Intensity:**
7.5% Decrease

Long-Term Impact

Wauwatosa is expanding its efforts by registering all 14 school buildings in the Utility Bill Verified Savings Offering for 2025. To better manage peak energy demand, the District is now utilizing zone-based scheduling and adjusting ventilation in gymnasiums and auditoriums based on real-time occupancy.

The District established the Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Subcommittee, a dedicated group of professionals that includes a school board member, staff, and community members. This team actively advocates for sustainable practices and provides strategic recommendations. Through proactive facility management, the Wauwatosa School District is setting a strong example of energy efficiency in education.

Ready to Achieve Similar Success?

If you are looking to reduce energy costs and improve building performance, contact your Energy Advisor to learn more about the **Utility Bill Verified Savings** offering. Let us help you unlock energy savings just like Wauwatosa School District!

800.762.7077 | focusonenergy.com/EA-Map

Focus on Energy, Wisconsin utilities' statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy, helps eligible residents and businesses save energy and money while protecting the environment. Focus on Energy information, resources, and financial incentives help to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that otherwise would not be completed.

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