

SEAFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Roy Whitaker, Chief of Buildings and Grounds

Seaford Delaware 19973

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Good morning and thank you for inviting me to this hearing. There are three primary points of interest that I would like to make to the attendees. The three points will describe: our school district and our successes; the free and low cost efforts resulting in huge financial savings; and how other school districts, governmental agencies, or businesses can duplicate these efforts.

- 1 Seaford School District in Seaford Delaware is a national average school district with 6 schools. We have used the free web based EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager software to successfully BENCHMARK all of our schools and manage them for superior energy efficiency resulting in current annual savings of \$640,000 per year. Another benefit includes a several million pound reduction in air pollution. In summary, the Seaford School District's introduction to the ENERGY STAR Program and ensuing partnership has enabled us to fast-track significant energy and pollution reduction measures that are having a real and immediate impact on the planet and budget. The quality ENERGY STAR training, program, and resources showed us how and where to start with benchmarking and how to take our Portfolio Manager numbers into an effective action plan that made immediate impact. I note that the six schools have an average age of 61 years and our current average ENERGY STAR rating for all six buildings is 96 (out of 100) with the 1928 school building dragging us down just a few points! We are very proud to manage our schools with some of the best energy performance in the country even when compared to the newest schools.
- 2 There are a multitude of free and low cost items that can be implemented to initiate a path of significant energy savings like ours. There are also many items with quick payback that would be a part of any savings program. One important aspect of any program should be to "sweat the small details". The small details are what make a school environment healthy and effective for the students and staff. I note that we have made mistakes along the way and have learned and improved because of them. I would suggest that anyone interested in the steps we took please review the PowerPoint presentation on the Seaford School District website
<http://agi.seaford.k12.de.us/sites/bg/Pages/default.aspx> or contact me
royw@seaford.k12.de.us Although the list is long, a few of the details that you will find on the website presentation will include: creating a formal energy policy; benchmarking building performance; managing the on/off times and tuning the equipment; sealing up

the building envelope; avoiding wasteful practices that can consume significant energy; modifying or upgrading existing lighting; storm windows which saved 24% at one school; and specifying different or better equipment when repairing or building new facilities. I believe that some of the engineering practices in even the past ten years are not suited for the facilities of today and every detail needs to be scrutinized. At one of our schools we are considering upgrading the main electrical transformers which are only 12 years old. Their replacement will have two year payback and a savings of over a million dollars during their thirty to forty year life span. If suitable funding can be found there are countless similar investment opportunities that will produce significant cost savings over the next few decades. To summarize on this point, the goal is to maintain an excellent indoor environment while providing the taxpayer with substantial energy savings.

- 3 Although these tough economic times throw up roadblocks, it will take interested and dedicated people to plan, coordinate and control the outlined steps to achieve significant and consistent energy savings. It will also take the financial partners to fund the projects to have significant payback for many years into the future. To take this last point full circle, just recently we noted the ENERGY STAR rating was starting to drop at one of our buildings. The Seaford School District is one of the poorest school districts in the state and the phrase "shoestring budget" applies to all of our Buildings and Grounds operations. My two technicians and I are responsible for everything from maintaining the athletic fields to what has unfortunately been too much of lately: snow removal! Although everything seemed to be running very well at the school the technicians discovered a glitch in the controls program that kept a main circulation pump running 24 hours a day 7 days a week. As we all are very well aware, computers can have these glitches sometimes! This error was wasting electricity and a significant amount of heat. If we're not looking for these types of things, meaningful energy savings will not be maintained over time. In conjunction with ongoing upgrades our ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager data is tracking the effectiveness of our newer mechanical improvements and engineering test applications. It is very reassuring to observe documented energy improvements for the projects.

I thank everyone for making it possible to share some of our successes with our energy program and invite anyone to tour our facilities or contact me with questions.

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