

One School District Going Green: A Look into the Past, Present, and Future

Polk County Schools



District Information

- 8th largest school district in FL
- 160 facility sites
- Over 90,000 students enrolled
- Largest employer in Polk County
- 12 million square feet of air conditioned space



Goals of the Energy Program



- Help the district conserve energy and save the nonrenewable resources of the planet while maintaining a quality learning environment for students, teachers, and staff
- Save the district money to reinvest in ongoing educational activities

How we meet these Goals



- Educate all staff
- Provide detailed shutdown procedures
- Monitor all school sites
- Monitor utility accounts
- Input usage and cost for all utility bills into energy tracking software
- Participate in the planning of new buildings
- Educate students about energy efficiency at home and school
- Conduct frequent building walkthroughs

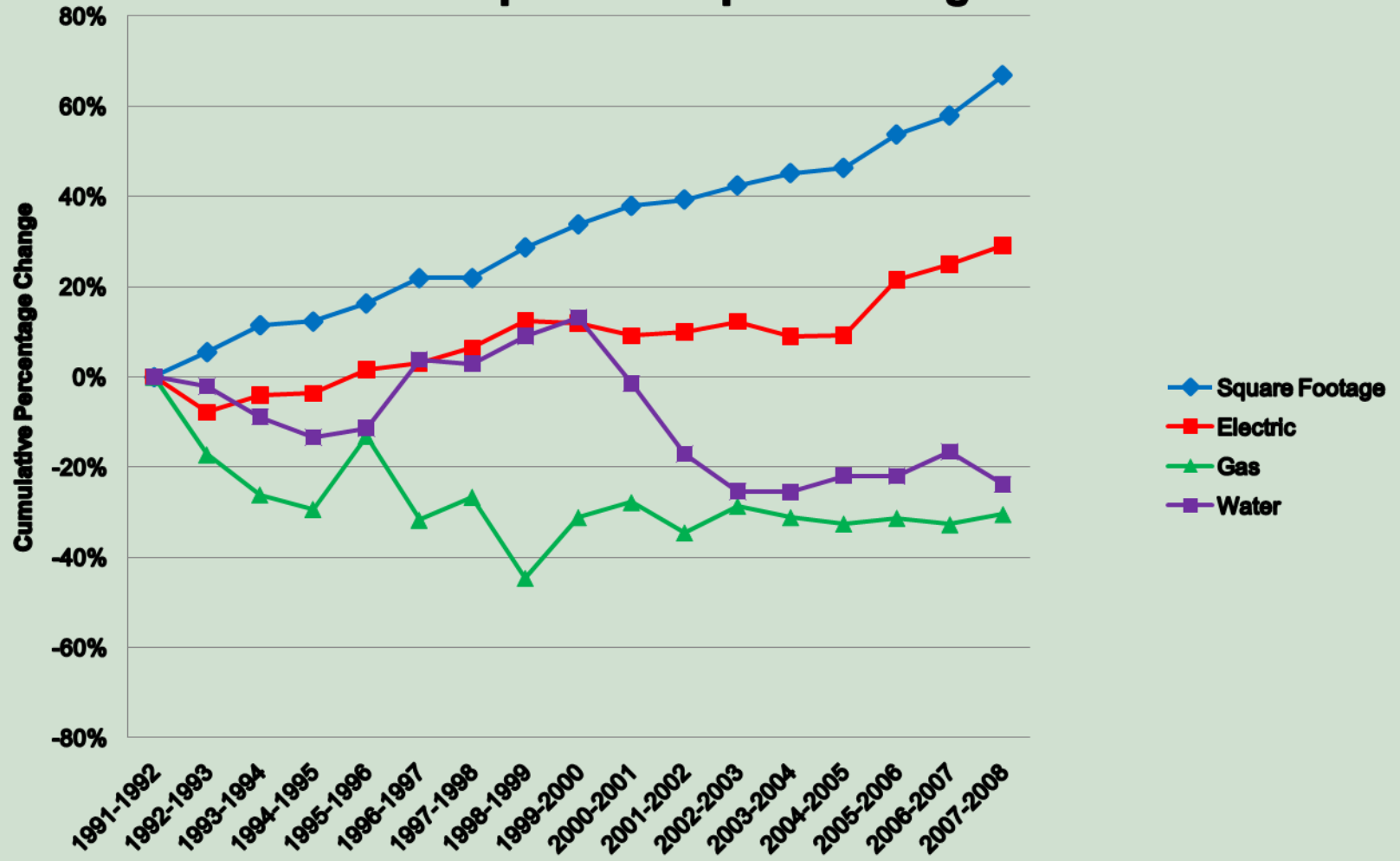
Our Stats



- Accumulated cost avoidance of \$62,021,664 since 1992
- 2007-2008 avoided \$7,126,409 in energy costs
- 2007-2008 operated our facilities at a cost of \$0.81 per square foot vs. the state average of \$1.35 per sq. ft.
- Lowest cost per student for all energy in the state of Florida
- 121 of our 130 schools earned the ENERGY STAR Award in 2008
- The cumulative reduction in greenhouse gas emissions since 1992 is equivalent to taking 61,708 cars off the road for one year.

ENERGY USAGE CHART

Consumption vs. Square Footage



Going Green: Past



- The original goal was to save money by saving energy with
 - Behavior modification
 - Energy tracking software
 - Energy efficient building designs
 - Efficient use of facilities during off hours
 - Energy efficient equipment upgrades

Go Green: Present



- Past successful practices
- Monthly energy reports to each school
- 4 Day summer work weeks
- Recycling programs
- Hybrid cars
- ENERGY STAR

Future of the Energy Program



- Continue past and present practices
- Build and remodel as energy efficiently as possible
- Continue ENERGY STAR program
- Look at alternative energy sources
- Partner with Commuter Services
- Purchase alternative fuel vehicles
- Continue learning new innovations
- Conduct presentations in classrooms

Questions

