

**-- NEWS RELEASE --**

**Leon County Schools Saves \$1.1 Million  
*Energy & Environmental Plan Surpasses Two Year Goal***

Tallahassee, FL—Leon County taxpayers saved more than \$1.16 million during the past two years as a result of Leon County Schools' district-wide energy conservation efforts.

In 2006-07, Superintendent Jackie Pons asked his staff to develop strategies to reduce the average kilowatt-hour-per-square-foot consumption of energy. That year, the average consumption was 16.82 kwh.

In 2008-09, consumption dropped to 14.82 kwh per square foot of space, a decrease of 11.9 percent. Had new strategies not been in place with higher fuel costs and more building space throughout the district, taxpayers would have been on the hook for an additional \$1,161,683, according to an LCS analysis.

"I believe that we have to do everything we can to protect our environment and become more energy efficient," said Pons. "Going Green affects not only the future of our planet, but also provides real world examples for our students and saves on energy costs, allowing us to continue to focus our priorities on classrooms and teachers."

The Green strategies implemented by LCS focus on three strategies:

Behavior Modification—change the way all LCS employees approach the use of electricity and its impact on schools such as turning off the lights when leaving a room, proper control of air conditioning, and more.

Maintenance Procedures—establish processes and procedures to ensure that air filters are replaced regularly, coils cleaned, and other preventative measures for equipment.

Equipment Management—reconfigure computer systems, change light bulbs, retrofit lamp ballasts, and implement 'green' best practices where applicable.

"The strategies executed over the previous two years have been amazingly successful to date, but there is still work to be done," said Manny Joanos director of energy operations. "Our new goal is to reduce our electricity usage to below 14 kilowatt-hours-per-square-foot and we will get there by continuing to implement green strategies, challenging individual schools to lower their energy use and researching new technology and national best practices."

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