



## North Carolina Department of Administration

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### UTILITY SAVINGS INITIATIVE PARTNER RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

*Nash-Rocky Mount is First School System in State with Facilities Designated as ENERGY STAR*

**RALEIGH** —Nash-Rocky Mount Public School System was recognized Monday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as the first K-12 public school system in North Carolina to have facilities awarded the ENERGY STAR designation, making them among the most energy efficient buildings in the nation.

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of EPA and DOE that promotes saving money and protecting the environment through energy efficiency products and services. Plaques recognizing the achievement will hang in the 13 school system facilities that achieved the ENERGY STAR designation.

Nash-Rocky Mount Public School System is comprised of 29 schools and 18,000 students. It reduced its energy usage by more than 11 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) and achieved cost avoidance savings of more than \$2 million from September 2004 to September 2006.

“The district committed to an energy reduction program by gathering support from the central office, board of education, maintenance department and school administrators,” said Mark Strickland, special assistant of auxiliary services for the school system. “We also partnered with the State Energy Office’s Utility Savings Initiative to take advantage of the free programs they offer to help manage energy use and bills.”

The Utility Savings Initiative (USI) is a program administered by the State Energy Office (SEO) of the N.C. Department of Administration that works to reduce energy consumption and costs in statewide public agencies, schools, universities and community colleges by 20 percent in five years through energy efficiency efforts. Since the program’s inception in 2002, USI has saved North Carolina taxpayers more than \$62 million in avoided utility costs. Some of the initiative’s key features include free energy management workshops, facility audits and HVAC and boiler tune-ups for partnering agencies.

“Many public agencies are troubled by high energy bills, but don’t see utilities as manageable expenses,” said Len Hoey, USI program manager. “Nash-Rocky Mount Schools has shown that good energy management practices can return valuable tax dollars to county budgets for use in our state’s classrooms. I applaud their efforts and hope they can inspire other USI partners to do the same.”

Additional information on USI, including energy-saving tips for public schools, can be found on the SEO website at [www.energync.net/efficiency/schools.html](http://www.energync.net/efficiency/schools.html).

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