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EPA names Inver Grove Heights Community Schools an ENERGY STAR Leader.

Independent School District 199 - Inver Grove Heights Community Schools - is proud to join EPA's list of ENERGY STAR Leaders, an elite group of organizations that have improved energy efficiency across all of the buildings in a portfolio. To date, ENERGY STAR Leaders include organizations such as schools, hospitals, supermarkets, government organizations and more.

“ISD 199 is pleased to be named an EPA ENERGY STAR Leader,” said Superintendent Dr. Deirdre Wells. “Through this achievement, we have demonstrated our commitment to environmental stewardship while also lowering our energy costs.”

ENERGY STAR Leaders manage energy strategically across an entire portfolio of buildings using EPA's ENERGY STAR standardized measurement tool, Portfolio Manager, for tracking building energy use. These select organizations are recognized by EPA for meeting one of two energy efficiency improvement milestones. The first milestone requires a 10 percent improvement in energy performance across the entire building portfolio, and subsequent recognition is given for each ten percent improvement thereafter. The second, known as “top performer,” requires the buildings in an organization’s portfolio, on average, to perform in the top 25 percent of similar buildings nationwide.

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The Simley High School/Inver Grove Heights Middle School campus was named an ENERGY STAR Certified Building. This facility includes the two schools named above, as well as the bus garage and district office. In order to receive this award, a facility must rank in the top 25% most energy efficient buildings out of all facilities participating in the ENERGY STAR program.

The district has used many strategies to achieve these successes: building operations have become more energy efficient, students and staff have been educated on proper recycling and energy consumption methods, equipment has been upgraded and the district's energy management team is providing students and staff with the tools to make a difference.

“It is not always easy being a consumer where you can consume as much as you want, when you want,” said Dr. Wells. “In a school district, there are parameters for consumption. That has helped Inver Grove Heights Community Schools be more efficient and put money towards things that are more valuable in public education.”

There have been high incentives for students and staff in ISD 199 to become more energy efficient. The district created a program where a percentage of the energy savings gained by each building is then returned to that respective building to be used to purchase technology.

The ENERGY STAR program was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Today, the ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 60 different kinds of products, new homes and commercial and industrial buildings. Products and buildings that have earned the ENERGY STAR designation prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the government. Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, have saved about \$19 billion on their energy bills while reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 31 million vehicles annually.

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