



School Dist:.....Canby
Project Type:.....Lighting Retrofit
Stimulus Funds: ...\$145,059
Savings/yr:\$6,767

Two older elementary schools shine bright in Canby

Canby School District Facilities Manager Wayne Layman can't say enough about how good Canby residents are in supporting their schools.

"They just raised \$1 million in donations for artificial turf for the football field," Layman said. "It was pretty amazing in these tough economic times."

The town of 15,000, 18 miles outside of Portland in Clackamas County, also has passed its recent school bond issues. That is something

Layman, as facilities manager, really appreciates.

"People in Canby have a lot of pride in their schools," he said.

Which is why Layman was pleased when he could tell the School Board last spring that the District had applied for and was awarded two American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) grants through the Oregon Department of Energy's State Energy Program. The two awards for a total of \$145,059 were used for retrofitting the lights in two of the district's oldest buildings: Knight Elementary built in 1948 and Eccles Elementary built in 1950.

At Knight, 690 T-12s were replaced with energy-efficient T-8s with electronic ballasts and 37 400-Watt metal halides were replaced with linear fluorescents. At Eccles, 876 T-12s were replaced energy-efficient T-8s with electronic ballasts and high-efficiency T-5s in the gym.

The new lights have been well received, according to comments Layman has heard from staff and students. Especially noticeable was the

hallway lighting at Knight. One hallway has no windows and the light fixtures are located to one side. Layman said you could not see to the end of the hallway. The new lights, still located to one side, are bright enough to see all the way to the end.

"Before the new lights were installed, we had considered adding more light fixtures to that hallway for safety," Layman said. "Now that isn't necessary."

Layman is also very happy to see that all the lights are the same quality in a room or hallway. Previously, the light quality varied depending upon the type of lamp installed, and the overall effect was an unattractive "patchwork" look. "The new lighting produces a consistent light and looks good," he said.

Layman had his doubts that the linear fluorescent lights would work in the Knight gym to replace the 37 hanging 400-Watt metal halides. He thought the dark green flooring and high wood ceiling that absorb light would be difficult to illuminate with linear fluorescents. He was surprised at the result.

"This was the darkest gym before we installed the new lights. I just didn't see the fluorescent lights working," said Layman. "But they did and look great."

In addition to better light quality and appearance, Layman sees other benefits to the lighting upgrade.

"It means less main-



Canby Facilities Manager Wayne Layman, left, discusses the new lights at Eccles Elementary School with Rebecca Sweetland, project manager with the Oregon Department of Energy.

"People in Canby have a lot of pride in their schools..."
- Wayne Layman
Canby Facilities Manager



Rebecca Sweetland, left, project manager with the Oregon Dept. of Energy, reviews closing documentation with Ruth Saxton, facilities secretary, center, and Wayne Layman, facilities manager for Canby School District.



tenance hours for the crew,” he said. “We have 1,500 work orders and a large percentage of those are lighting orders that we don’t have any more. It frees the crew up to do other things.”



Mrs. Frazier, an Eccles English teacher, is pleased with the new lighting in her room. “It’s so much brighter than last year,” she said.

The new T-8s will last longer than the old T-12s, so maintenance staff won’t have as many orders in the future either.

Layman also saw a benefit for the local lighting contractor, Canby Electric, which had the lowest of the three bids on the job.

“I felt good that the money stayed in Canby,” Lay-

man said. “It put them to work and they were grateful.”

Doug Onion, owner of Canby Electric since 1978, agrees. Business has been slow with the tight economy in recent years. He now employs 12 people, down from his peak of 20 employees a few years ago.

“It was big,” said Onion of winning the Canby School District lighting bid. “I was really happy to get the job. The paperwork was a bit overwhelming at times, but it was a good experience.”

Onion had three journeyman electricians and one helper working fulltime for three weeks on the two lighting projects.

The federal stimulus money paid for both lighting projects in full, but there was another “cost” associated with the federal grant. The federal stimulus money requires considerable documentation and requirements such as Davis-Bacon payroll, Buy American Act, monthly reports, and more.

Most of that paperwork went through Ruth Saxton, the maintenance department secretary who has worked for Canby School District for 31 years.

Both Layman and Oregon Department of Energy Project Manager Rebecca Sweetland agree that Saxton did an excellent job tracking the progress and finances of the projects and organizing the four-inch thick binder of documentation.

Layman is looking for more grants to upgrade the lighting in other district schools. He knows the Canby residents have a high standard for their school facilities. Even with a dwindling maintenance department staff, he wants to do all he can to keep the school buildings in good shape and create an optimum learning environment for students and staff.



The gym at Eccles Elementary School in Canby is used by the grade school students and also outside groups such as a club volleyball team. The new lighting, paid for by stimulus funds, brightened the entire area.

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) awarded this energy project with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) funds through the State Energy Program. These funds are designated for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The U.S. Department of Energy administers the funds, approves the projects and reviews the state’s progress. The Oregon Department of Energy has \$42.1 million in SEP funding.

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How small Oregon school districts can find funds for energy projects

Small Oregon school districts have been feeling the budget pinch for years. And, like school districts throughout Oregon, smaller schools have many older facilities.

According to the US Department of Energy (US DOE), schools spend more on energy than any other expense except personnel. The US DOE Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Building Technologies Program also notes that energy is one of the few expenses a school district can reduce without sacrificing educational quality.

What help is available for Oregon schools (small or large) wanting to reduce their energy use?

Stimulus funds - The Oregon Department of Energy has awarded nearly 300 schools and public entities throughout Oregon with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for energy projects. While there are no current opportunities at this time, the Oregon Department of Energy advises interested parties to check the Web site periodically for announcements and sign up for e-mail notification at: www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/Recovery/Funding.shtml

Qualified School Construction Bonds - The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus funds) created a new category of tax credit bonds for the construction, rehabilitation, or repair of public school facilities and for the acquisition of land on which a public school facility will be constructed. The bonds are designed to be zero-interest and help provide a significant cost savings to school districts for capital improve-

ment. Oregon received nearly \$110 million for this funding. www.nsba.org/MainMenu/Advocacy/FederalLaws/FederalFunding/Stimulus/School-Bonds/BondDescriptions.aspx

Schools Team - The Oregon Department of Energy has a Schools Team that is available to assist Oregon schools with accessing available funding to implement energy-efficiency projects. Contact the Oregon Department of Energy at (503) 378-4040 or toll-free at 1-800-221-8035 and ask for the Schools Team.

Senate Bill 1149 - The Oregon Department of Energy administers this public purpose funds program. The Senate Bill 1149 program pays for 100 percent of eligible energy efficiency projects.

Schools spend more on energy than any other expense except personnel.

- US Department of Energy



Schools qualify by being customers of Portland General Electric or Pacific Power. Funding is based on student enrollment and comes in monthly until 2025. Qualified schools are allotted

funding for energy efficiency improvements in existing instructional buildings. Contact the Oregon Department of Energy at (503) 378-4040 or toll-free at 1-800-221-8035.

Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) - The Oregon Department of Energy oversees the BETC program that covers a percentage of the eligible cost of a conservation or renewable energy project. Projects must be pre-approved. Since public schools do not have a tax liability, the BETC has a pass-through option that schools can use to receive a cash payment and transfer their tax credit eligibility to an eligible third party. Contact the Oregon Department of Energy at (503) 378-4040 or toll-free at 1-800-221-8035.

Energy Loan Program - Schools are eligible to apply for a low-interest, long-term, fixed-rate Energy Loan through the Oregon Department of Energy. Loans can be structured around anticipated SB 1149 payments and/or estimated energy savings. Contact the Oregon Department of Energy at (503) 378-4040 or toll-free at 1-800-221-8035.

Energy Trust of Oregon has the following service and cash incentives for schools located in service territories of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas. These services and incentives can be utilized only after 1149 funds have been exhausted. Call the Energy Trust directly at 1-866-368-7878.

Comprehensive energy assessments - The Energy Trust pays for energy assessments to identify energy-efficiency opportunities, analyze their energy impact and cost-effectiveness. These assessments can be coordinated through the ODOE Schools Team.

Cash incentives - Energy Trust offers cash incentives for qualifying energy projects up to a maximum \$500,000 per year. Projects must be pre-approved.

Bonneville Power Administration offers energy audits and incentives for energy-efficiency projects that save electricity for schools located in service areas served by public utilities, municipal district and electric cooperatives. Schools may qualify for cash rebates of up to 70 percent of some energy projects. Call your local public utility, municipal district or electric coop and ask specifically about Bonneville Power Administration audits and incentives.



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