

Energy Management Project Update

During the summer of 2012 the Wickenburg Unified School District (WUSD) took advantage of over \$300,000 in federal grant funding to make its facilities more energy efficient. The project impacted each of the District's schools and office buildings through the installation of an energy management system (thermostat and lighting controls), energy-efficient lighting units, computer management systems and high efficiency air conditioning units.

The project was made possible through a grant from the Arizona School Facilities Board, which helped to defray the cost of the project and to decrease the interest rate paid for the portion of the project which was financed.

A week ago the Administration met to review the cost savings which can be attributed to the project and determined that thus far the project has saved the District over \$55,000 in its first year. These funds are being used to defray other expenses and we are analyzing what changes might be made to save even more in year two. In addition to the savings, the project was used to replace a number of air conditioning units; many of which were over 15+ years old and likely would have failed within a few years.

We hope the project will continue to yield savings for the district and that we will continue to find ways to make our buildings and facilities more energy efficient as time progresses. Although the implementation process has not been easy, it is very important to find ways to save funds during these very challenging times.