

Learning Ability Starts with a Green Facility



Need/Challenge: San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) was established in 1899, expanding a history of almost 120 years. SAISD serves over 45,000 students of which 90% are economically disadvantaged within a 79 square mile radius in the heart of Bexar County and the city. It is the 3rd largest school district in the county and the 13th largest school district in Texas. SAISD is in dire need of increasing the number of Energy Champions, especially since according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (2022 report) San Antonio is listed among the nations "Top 100 Most Challenging Places to Live with Asthma" and among the top ten cities in the nation that have the highest number of uninsured residents. Creating more SAISD Energy Champions would help our students, staff, community, and state in a manner that our positive impacts could easily be considered best practices and shared with other Local Education Agencies. With over 90 facilities, this inner-city district has only one (1) Electrical Engineer who is responsible for overseeing all energy management and audit for conservation and sustainability efforts. He is highly qualified and is a certified Energy Manager by The State of Texas. Although we have limited resources, the SAISD Energy & Sustainability Program was awarded The Texas Environmental Excellence Award from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in 2022 in the category of Innovative Operations/Management and the Fall 2021 national Renew our Schools energy competition.

Proposed Facilities to Address: The following twelve (12) elementary schools will be the locations of our proposed project (in parenthesis after each school is the % of students on free and reduced lunch): Barkley-Ruiz (96%), Charles Ball (97%), Dorie Miller (95%), Douglass (97%), Kelly (95%), Herff (97%), Hillcrest (97%), Margil (99%), Antonio Maverick (90%), Muriel Forbes (93%), Pershing (98%), and Robert Green (91%).

Impact: If funded, our district would increase the number of Energy Champions from one (1) to twelve (12). Following the professional development these three key stakeholders receive, they then increase the number exponentially by creating trainers of trainers. First through an internal learning platform for professional development for all facility technicians and custodial managers. This would be accompanied with in-person training. The more staff in help SAISD's capacity to strengthen partnerships with outside entities such as CPS Energy, San Antonio Water System, City of San Antonio Greater Council, etc.

Team/Proposed Energy Champion(s): Chris E. Salley (Senior Executive of Director of Facilities of Plant Services Department), Michael B. Eaton (Chief Operator & Building Security Officer of Operations), Nathan J. Graf (Senior Executive Director of Transportation Department) and Samuel Vargas (Facilities Manager). The Energy CLASS prize would allow our school district to provide training for 9 custodial managers and 12 Heating, Air Conditioning & Ventilation technicians and electricians. This would be in the form of profession development courses through the Texas Energy Managers Association and continuous improvement courses via our online Vector Training.

