



California Energy Commission
2009 Integrated Energy Policy Report Staff Workshop
August 11, 2009 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Hearing Room A
Bright Schools Program

The California Energy Commission's Bright Schools Program helps public K-12 school districts and non-profit schools identify cost-effective energy efficient projects for renovating existing schools, building new ones, or reducing energy bills. Schools with energy efficient designs cost less to operate, offering continuous savings and leaving more money for education.

Eligibility

All publicly funded California K-12 school districts and non-profit K-12 schools are eligible for assistance.

Participation Costs

For many K-12 public schools there may be no cost. The cost primarily depends on the facility size, type, and scope of the project. The Energy Commission contracts with experienced engineering and architectural consultants who provide the technical assistance (up to \$20,000 of our consultant's costs).

Financing

If financing is needed to implement the projects recommended by the Bright Schools Program (or as a result of an independent analysis), a low interest loan from the Energy Commission is available. Loans are available at competitive rates for public K-12 schools. (www.energy.ca.gov/efficiency/financing/)

Application Due

The Bright Schools Program is a continuously open program with no filing date. However, funding is limited and applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Existing Schools

Through an evaluation of maintenance plans or an energy audit of the facilities, the Energy Commission can identify energy-related projects. Schools planning major renovations can benefit from the Energy Commission's technical assistance services during the planning and design processes. For existing schools, the Bright Schools Program can:

- Conduct energy audits and feasibility studies
- Review existing proposals and designs
- Develop equipment performance specifications
- Review equipment bid specifications
- Assist with contractor selection
- Review commissioning plans

New School Construction

Many new schools being built today meet current California Title 24 energy efficiency standards, but have the potential to save more energy. The Bright Schools Program provides technical assistance to the district's architectural and engineering team early in the design phase, before plans are finalized so savings accumulate the first day of operation. For new school construction projects, the Bright Schools Program can:

- Provide design consultation
- Identify cost-effective energy-saving measures
- Provide recommendations to maximize Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) energy credits for state funding
- Compare different technologies
- Provide equipment specification consultation
- Develop computer simulation models of your planned project
- Help select design professionals with energy efficiency expertise
- Review schematics and construction plans
- Assist with system commissioning

Case Study

After the 2001 electricity shortage, Murrieta Valley Unified School District needed to improve the energy efficiency of its school facilities. The Bright School Programs provided a thorough energy audit of the district's various schools, which identified several energy efficiency projects including lighting retrofits, HVAC upgrades and controls, an energy management system, cogeneration for the swimming pool, and replacement of motors. The district completed the installation of all the projects in late 2003.

- **Peak Demand Savings:** 522 kW
- **Energy Savings:** 3,145,280 kWh per year
- **Annual Cost Savings:** \$420,000
- **Energy Commission Loan:** \$1,935,300
- **Simple Payback:** 4.6 years

For additional information, visit <http://www.energy.ca.gov/efficiency/brightschoools/index.html> or contact Karen Perrin at the California Energy Commission
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