



SEE THE CHANGE



Smart Scheduling Saves Energy!

We're starting to see some big energy savings, so here's a new strategy to focus on this month: scheduling room use. Thoughtful scheduling of facilities is a great no-cost way our district can eliminate energy waste! All it takes is a little coordination and teamwork for us to see an immediate payback in utility cost savings.

For example, consolidating activities to specific areas or buildings allows the remainder of a facility that is not in use to be shutdown. This allows building engineers to schedule their equipment such as heating/cooling, ventilation, and lighting systems to be set at lower levels of energy use in unoccupied areas. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that one third of energy is wasted in schools – much of this unnecessary energy use occurs after hours or on weekends when school is not in session. For example, it's wasteful to have an entire building operating at full capacity when only the gymnasium or science classroom is in use.

Ask your building operator which hallways, classrooms or corridors are connected in order to find out the best way for you to consolidate!

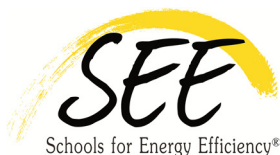
The district is working with community education, teachers, and coaches to collaborate on ways to use our spaces most efficiently, but within your school you can work together as you plan daily activities as well. Here are a few energy-saving ideas to consider when scheduling rooms:

- **Consolidate activities such as after school or evening programs to one area of the building.**
- **Communicate occupancy by notifying the building manager or facility staff about which parts of the building are being used, especially during non-school hours and weekends. If a meeting or class is cancelled let them know so they can change equipment settings to save energy.**
- **Align the size of the group to the size of the room. A large gymnasium, auditorium, or media center may not be necessary for a small group. Think about what type of space is needed for your project.**

When using a classroom, office, or specialty space such as the media center, gymnasium or family and consumer science room, try the following:

- **Wait to turn on computers and electronic appliances until they are needed. Don't automatically power everything up when you arrive.**
- **Assign students to turn off lights and shut equipment down when leaving the room.**
- **Plan for two minutes at the end of the day to take a quick look around to make sure everything is turned off. When a room is empty, energy shouldn't be in use.**

Engage yourself in energy saving by paying attention to how energy is used in your daily schedule. If you have any questions about the Schools for Energy Efficiency program, please contact me!



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