



Building Analytics Leads to Energy Saving Success for Local Schools

Gardiner's approach is earning local school districts both energy savings & recognition



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Buildings program is not a new concept, having been around since the early '90s. With the help of Gardiner's Building Analytics team, school districts across Northeast Ohio have been using the program to put a new spin on their energy initiatives more than 20 years later.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

Building Analytics from Gardiner is a departure from the traditional capital intensive retrofit-based energy savings programs that many are accustomed to.

"Most of the recommendations we received from various companies required a significant capital investment. Gardiner's was different, though," said Steve Wood, the COO of Tallmadge Schools, who recently achieved the Energy Star Buildings label on a facility that was struggling with both energy and comfort issues. "They helped us map out a strategy that focused on managing our existing systems and controls, so we did this without having to make any capital improvements. The building is now more comfortable for teachers and students, while costing us less to operate. It's really a win-win."



(left to right) Tony Italia from Tallmadge Schools, Kevin Pugely & Nate Smik from Gardiner, and Steve Wood from Tallmadge

The EPA's Energy Star energy performance scale helps organizations assess how efficiently their buildings use energy relative to similar buildings nationwide. A building that scores a 75 or higher on EPA's 1-100 scale may be eligible for Energy Star certification. Tallmadge High School has moved from a score of 61 in late 2013 to a 75 today, earning the Award.

BUILDING INTELLIGENCE



Gardiner's Building Analytics team uses both energy data and comfort-based information using tools like the Gardiner Space Comfort Scorecard to identify potential issues and opportunities. Gardiner leverages its local staff of over 200 Associates, including 26 degreed engineers and 19 Certified Energy Managers (CEMs) to identify the root cause of any issues and map out a course of action.

"Building Analytics is about understanding the whole building and identifying the best way to solve energy & comfort issues," said Gardiner's Nate Smik, who was actively involved with the success at Tallmadge High School. "We don't have a specific course of action we're trying to get to. We're truly listening to what the data is telling us."

RESULTS

Since 2012, Gardiner has saved clients nearly \$10,000,000 and over 86,000,000 kWh of electricity and 830,000 Mcf of natural gas. In schools, this includes major HB 264 projects as well as more gradual Dynamic Commissioning programs. The process continues with examples like Tallmadge, saving thousands of dollars per year since they started working with Gardiner on this program a couple years ago.

In addition to the financial results, Gardiner clients note improved comfort and reduced temperature complaints. The community recognition for Energy Star has been a bonus as well for the many school districts that Gardiner has worked with.

Other Examples of Local District Success

"I am very proud of our high school for earning this distinction," said Wood regarding the success at his district. "We have made an honest effort to use our resources in a smarter way, and it has clearly paid off for both us and the environment. Awards or not, we plan to continue our efforts in making Tallmadge a more energy-efficient district."

School District	ENERGY STAR	Annual Savings
Osnaburg Local School District	88	\$121,189
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools	80	\$113,774
Fairless Local School District	83	\$62,511
Minerva Local School District	94	\$167,732
Grand Valley Local School District	78	\$78,258
Mansfield Local School District	78	\$216,922

CONTACT US

To learn more about how Gardiner can help your school district solve your energy, comfort, reliability, planning and funding challenges, contact our K-12 Education Specialists Dan Sabetta (dpsabetta@whgardiner.com) or Jerry Hixson (jhixson@whgardiner.com) or call us at 440.248.3400