

Sweetwater Union High School District

SUMMARY

Customer:

Sweetwater
Union High
School District

Project:

Lighting, HVAC,
VFDs, Solar,
Vending Misers,
& Computer
Management
Software
Upgrades

Energy Savings:

3,637,000 kWh/yr and
37,478 therms

Reduction in Peak Demand:

708 kW

Cost Savings:

\$656,000/yr.

Incentive:

\$800,000

Payback:

4.2 years

"Our students and staff are enjoying improved lighting, better air quality, and a more comfortable learning environment."

Jim Clark
Utilities Manager
Sweetwater Union
High School District



Sweetwater district schools serve 42,000 students in grades 7 - 12 and 29,000 adult learners in the south San Diego county communities of Bonita, Chula Vista, EastLake, Imperial Beach, National City, Otay Mesa, South San Diego and San Ysidro. It is the largest secondary (grades 7 - 12) school system in California with an annual budget of \$324 million and more than 5,488 employees.

▼ Issues

High utility bills at the school campuses prompted the District's Energy Conservation department to ask SDREO and Innovative Energy Services, Inc. for assistance in identifying energy efficiency opportunities.

▼ Solution

A final overall assessment of the district buildings conducted by IES and the District's Energy Conservation department identified several areas in need of improvement. Using a low-interest municipal lease (3.598%) and incentives from SDG&E Savings Bid, Express Efficiency and Standard Performance programs, more than 20 schools in the district were retrofitted with energy efficient lighting, high efficiency HVAC units, programmable thermostats, Vending Misers, variable frequency drives, and solar hot water system for Mar Vista High's pool. A computer management control system (Verdiem Surveyor) was also installed to effectively control energy usage at 5,000 computer systems throughout the district.

▼ Results

At a total cost of \$3,533,452, the project will save the district more than \$656,000 per year. With the SDG&E incentive (\$800,000), the overall simple payback for the project is only 4.2 years. Also the energy saved correlates to a reduction in CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions of more than 2.9 million lbs. per year.



The San Diego Regional Energy Office is currently managing over \$58 million in funds under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Substantial incentives are available for qualified self-generation and energy efficiency projects that include wind, solar, fuel cell, microturbine or conventional cogeneration technologies. Contact us for more information.



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