



## Santa Fe Public Schools

# School District Gets Staff Involved with a District-Wide Conservation Plan

### Santa Fe Public Schools creates a successful energy conservation plan with the help of UtilityDirect

Santa Fe Public Schools' (SFPS) operational budget consists of 86% staff salaries and benefits, and 14% left for everything else, including utilities. Year after year the District found itself with a budget shortfall, having to look at eliminating programs or positions to stay within budget. The district didn't want to cut back on the 86% of the budget for teachers' salaries. "So, the district decided to focus on the other 14%," said Lisa Randall, energy conservation program coordinator. "Looking into what we could focus on to conserve without hurting classrooms, utilities were an easy choice."

Now that SFPS was concentrating on utility conservation, the district created a position dedicated to energy management. Lisa Randall's first task, as the new energy conservation coordinator, was cleaning up the UtilityDirect database. She wiped the database clean and rebuilt 2 years worth of backlogged data, creating a baseline for comparison. Lisa believes that, "if you're not benchmarking through software, like UtilityDirect, or finding a way to measure your use/cost/progress, it will be hard to validate success and the ongoing need of the program." She frequently shares the district's success with her stakeholders through customized reports created in UtilityDirect.

Lisa set out to create a conservation plan to pair with the district's utility bill analysis, through UtilityDirect. She researched other districts' conservation plans for ideas. The primary focus of the plan was raising awareness of usage. "It was a cultural shift of looking at our buildings as if they are our own homes," said Lisa. "Since we're paying the bill at home, we're hyperaware of wasting." Teachers began taking responsibility for how they used resources. There was a reduction in the number of lights left on, and windows and doors left open.

Lisa also focused on what she calls the 'low hanging fruit' – anything that would provide an immediate impact on consumption. This included many facility upgrades and retrofits such as, installing T8 and T5 lights district-wide, reducing lighting costs by up to 30%. Lisa's conservation plan has led to a 17.5% reduction in natural gas consumption, as well as a 9.7% reduction in electrical demand, and 12.7% less water used; saving \$398,473.15 on utility costs over a 2 year span. The money that was saved on utility bills has been returned to the operational budget. The district has received several awards for its conservation efforts, including the Corporate Energy Conservation Award, from the New Mexico Association of Energy Engineers.

#### Who they are

**CLIENT:** Santa Fe Public Schools

**LOCATION:** Santa Fe, NM

**SIZE:** 12,500 students, 60 buildings

#### SchoolDude products used

UtilityDirect  
 ConserveDirect  
 MaintenanceDirect  
 PMDirect  
 ITDirect  
 ITAMDirect

**\$389,473.15**  
**saved on utility**  
**costs in 2 years**