



St. Lucie County School District

Florida District Saves \$7 Million in Energy Costs with Facilities Automation Tool

Using FSDirect and FSAutomation, St. Lucie County School District sees significant energy savings and increased productivity

With 8 million square feet of educational space and over 2,000 community events held each year, it was critical for St. Lucie County School District to integrate its facility scheduling and building automation system (BAS), which controls the HVAC and lighting systems, to save energy costs and employees' time. Without the integration, this data transfer had to be done manually by Sean Murray, Energy Manager, and Jose Vega, Building Automation Technician. This daily process was both error-prone and lengthy, taking about 40 hours per week.

The district began focusing on increasing efficiency and streamlining processes. Sean looked to SchoolDude for advice since St. Lucie was already utilizing SchoolDude's maintenance management solutions, MaintenanceDirect and PMDirect. SchoolDude's FSDirect, the facility scheduling solution, and FSAutomation, the facility schedule automation solution, were the answers that Sean was looking for. The integration ensured events scheduled in FSDirect communicated with the district's BAS, through FSAutomation, to automatically coordinate lighting, heating and conditioning of facilities as needed for each event.

Now, with FSDirect, faculty and community requesters can submit event requests and the team can deliver HVAC and lighting services in a targeted manner with FSAutomation. This reduced the district's energy consumption by over 30%, saving \$7 million over 7 years. The implementation of FSAutomation also opened up 35 man-hours that can be refocused into making the district's processes more efficient. "[With FSAutomation,] my role switched from reactive data entry to proactive energy planning," said Jose. "We have more time to focus on things that will have a lasting impact on the district and improve energy consumption."

With this time, the team created more HVAC zones which allows them to heat and cool only the facility space that is being used for after-hours events. St. Lucie has maximized its energy efficiency by using the minimum number of zones needed to properly condition event spaces. This strategic management of facility space has positively influenced their peak demand rate and plays a role in the \$1 million energy savings seen annually.

Utilizing FSDirect in conjunction with FSAutomation has also created time for professional development. With a more knowledgeable and well-trained staff in-house, the district has reduced the need for outside contract workers. St. Lucie has also been able to restructure technical support contracts and use them in a more proactive way. Now, the support contractors complete preventive maintenance and teach the in-house team as they go.

"It's crazy to think about the far reaching effects one system can have," said Jose. "Overall, we're very happy with our SchoolDude products," added Sean. "The results we've seen are far better than we ever expected!"

Who they are

CLIENT: St. Lucie County School District

LOCATION: Fort Pierce, Florida

SIZE: 40,000 students, 47 campuses

SchoolDude products used

MaintenanceDirect

PMDirect

InventoryDirect

UtilityDirect

FSDirect

FSAutomation

MySchoolBuilding

\$7 million saved in energy costs over 7 years