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MEDIA RELEASE

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Ashwaubenon School District Earns Environmental Stewardship Award

Ashwaubenon, WI – September 7, 2011 – For saving enough energy in 17 months to effectively plant more than 20,380 trees, Ashwaubenon School District will be presented with The Award for Energy Stewardship from Energy Education during the September 12th school board meeting. The Award for Energy Stewardship recognizes the organization’s efforts to implement an innovative organizational behavior-based energy conservation and management program. The program, administered through a strategic alliance with Energy Education, has also helped all Ashwaubenon School District buildings become Energy Star certified.

“Ashwaubenon School District Superintendent Dr. Brian Hanes, the school board and administration are demonstrating wise fiscal and environmental stewardship by implementing this unique organizational behavior-based energy conservation program,” said Dr. William S. Spears, Chairman and Founder of Energy Education. “Using human resources to reduce energy use saves natural and financial resources for the organization and the community.”

The program delivers an environmental benefit from reduced carbon footprint. Energy not used prevents the emission of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. According to EPA/EGrid figures, the results of Ashwaubenon’s efforts are equivalent to 20,380 pine trees grown for 10 years or the elimination of emissions from 143 cars.

“This energy program is an excellent vehicle to assist our district personnel in practicing good stewardship of our resources. The willing participation of virtually every staff person — teachers, administrators, food service, maintenance and custodial people — adds to our success,” said Superintendent Hanes.

To manage their energy education and conservation initiative, the district hired retired teacher and coach Ed Krcmar in 2009 as their Energy Education Specialist. Krcmar received intensive training to implement conservation procedures in all of the system’s facilities. He conducted energy audits to ensure that students and teachers were comfortable during class times and scheduled activities, and that energy is used only as necessary. Krcmar worked hard to motivate everyone in the district to use energy wisely, keep classrooms comfortable, and practice smart energy strategies. Krcmar retired from the position in August so the district decided to stick with its successful formula by hiring another retired teacher, Hank Schmitt, as their new Energy Education Specialist.

The award presentation takes place on Monday, September 12th at 6:30pm in the School District Office at 1055 Griffiths Lane, Ashwaubenon. For more information please contact Keith Lucius, Assistant Superintendent – Business Services, at 920-492-2905 extension 1005 or klucius@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us.

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