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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **ASHWAUBENON SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES FEATURED IN PERIODICAL**

**Ashwaubenon, WI – September 30, 2009** – The Ashwaubenon School District is featured in the September issue of *Teaching Today* for its energy conservation measures. The article details how the school district has reduced energy costs by 25%, resulting in \$845,000 of savings, over the past eight years. The article, which can be viewed on *Teaching Today's* website at [www.teachingtodaywi.com](http://www.teachingtodaywi.com), is shown below in its entirety.

*Over the past eight years, the Ashwaubenon School District has been aggressive and effective in its energy conservation efforts. In addition to trimming energy costs by 25%, resulting in \$845,000 of savings over those eight years, the school district has modeled being a good environmental steward for its students, staff and community. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed as Wisconsin's Lt. Governor, Barbara Lawton, visited the Ashwaubenon School District in May to applaud their accomplishments and to further challenge them by being the 100<sup>th</sup> district in the state to sign on to her Energy Star Schools Challenge.*

*Energy conservation efforts started in Ashwaubenon back in 2000 as part of a referendum-funded renovation project at Ashwaubenon High School. The project included the installation of computer-based mechanical control and energy monitoring systems. The school district determined the timing was right to get started with energy conservation in light of increasing energy costs, decreasing budgets and the beginning of the "green" environmental movement.*

*Since that time Ashwaubenon has purchased energy from different energy providers due to de-regulation, trained custodial staff on the use of their computer-based energy systems, done extensive data analysis, kept up-to-date on new energy efficient equipment and replaced equipment, based on cost-benefit analysis, as part of their five-year maintenance plan. However, and most importantly, the school district has worked hard to create a culture among its staff and students, to be energy-conscious and environment-friendly. Developing this culture has involved monthly communication of energy consumption and costs, training*

*staff be more energy conservative and even having challenges between the schools to see which building could trim the highest percentage of their energy costs – something that can be quite a sacrifice in the middle of a Wisconsin winter.*

*Energy-efficient equipment that has been installed includes boilers, lights, occupancy sensors, variable-speed pumps and energy-efficient motors. The computerized energy management system allows custodians to see any room throughout the entire district from their computer and, to adjust the room's temperature and on/off set-points. In addition, building-wide systems such as boilers and air-handling units can be monitored to make sure they are functioning correctly.*

*The benefits of these efforts have been cost savings, reducing their carbon footprint on the environment and developing staff and students to be better environmental stewards. Besides being better energy consumers, the district's staff and students have taken things a step further by incorporating these concepts into curriculum and other learning opportunities. The Ashwaubenon High School science department is managing solar panels installed on the roof of the high school. A new extra-curricular activity, called Super Mileage Competition, has been added where a team of student competes against other schools to develop the highest mileage gas and electric vehicles. A student Ecology Club has been formed.*

*The Ashwaubenon School District's work however does not stop there. Since energy conservation and being "green" is a continuous improvement goal of the district, they have gladly accepted the Lt. Governor's challenge to trim an additional 10% of their energy consumption as part of her Energy Star Schools Challenge program. They are also in the process of developing a partnership with Energy Education, Inc., a company that helps educational organizations implement people-based energy conservation programs, to further Ashwaubenon's development of an energy-conscious culture.*

*Teaching Today* is a publication that addresses current national, state and local developments in education, as well as highlights from programs and curriculum of Wisconsin schools. Based in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, *Teaching Today* is distributed monthly to over 50,000 educators and administrators.

For more information regarding Ashwaubenon School District's energy conservation efforts, contact Mike Beno, Buildings & Grounds Coordinator at 920-492-2905 extension 1018 or [mbeno@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us](mailto:mbeno@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us).

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