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MEDIA RELEASE

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Ashwaubenon School District Reduces Energy Costs By \$396,799, Encourages Earth Day Participation

Ashwaubenon, WI – April 14, 2014 – While the world celebrates Earth Day on April 22nd, Ashwaubenon faculty, staff and students can participate as well, each one with a strong sense of satisfaction at having done his or her part to control energy use. Ashwaubenon School District has an active energy conservation program that has already achieved \$396,799 in savings through a 16.54% reduction in energy use over 48 months. That savings translates into significant numbers for Earth Day, too.

Since the district began the program, energy consumption has been reduced by 12,927 MMBTUs. That reduction translates into the equivalent of 2,102 tons of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere, or 438 passenger cars removed from the road, or 53,896 trees planted.

For Earth Day, the district plans to continue its efforts, and invites the public to join in. Hank Schmitt, Energy Specialist (ES), said there are a number of resources available on the Internet that can help individuals learn how to save energy in their own homes. One such resource is the GreenQuest application linked on the district's main webpage at www.ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us. You can also visit Earth Day websites at www.earthday.org and www.epa.gov/earthday/. "It's important for all of us to save energy. While most of the time we discuss it in terms of saving money, for Earth Day we encourage you to be concerned with our natural resources. Being good stewards of both our money and our environment gives us a great sense of satisfaction," said ES Hank Schmitt.

The cost of utilities is a large budget line-item for the district, and the prices for electricity, natural gas, heating oil and water have steadily increased over the past few years. To combat these rising energy and utility costs, the school district entered into a partnership with Cenergistic to implement a comprehensive organizational-behavior based energy conservation program throughout all its schools and buildings. Cenergistic guarantees the conservation program will save taxpayer dollars, save jobs and preserve important programs while saving vital natural resources.

For more information please contact Hank Schmitt, Ashwaubenon School District Energy Education Specialist, at 920-492-2905 extension1012 or hschmitt@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us.

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