

## **Facts about GREEN Vermont public schools**

**BIOMASS FUEL:** There are **43** public schools that use wood chips as their main heating source. We lead the nation in the use of state-of-the-art, efficient, low-emission biomass systems in schools. List of the schools:

[http://www.biomasscenter.org/images/stories/survey\\_allsystems09-10.pdf](http://www.biomasscenter.org/images/stories/survey_allsystems09-10.pdf)

- Based on data from the 2009-2010 heating season, they displaced the equivalent of 1.4 million gallons of oil.
- In 2009-2010 they saved \$1.7 million dollars in fuel cost.
- There are at least five public schools using pellet fuel; no data yet on these systems as the systems are relatively new: Twinfield, Elm Hill in Springfield, Peoples Academy, Craftsbury Academy, and Windsor school district.

**SOLAR POWER:** There are dozens of public schools which have installed solar photovoltaic panels to generate electricity, several that use solar power to heat hot water, and there are additional installations this summer. The department does not have a complete list.

**WIND POWER:** There are at least five public schools with windmills: Allen Brook in Williston, Dover, Danville, Mt. Holly, and Addison.

Here are some cool wind-in-school-settings pictures:

<http://docs.vtwindprogram.org/photos/Addison2.JPG>

<http://docs.vtwindprogram.org/photos/Danville2.JPG>

<http://docs.vtwindprogram.org/photos/MountHolly1.JPG>

<http://docs.vtwindprogram.org/photos/Dover1.JPG>

**GEOTHERMAL:** Two Burlington public schools installed geothermal (ground-water) heat pumps beneath their playgrounds last summer.

**EFFICIENCY:** Since November 2005, the Vermont Superintendents Association's School Energy Management Program performed energy audits on 366 Vermont public and private K-12 school buildings and generated 288 reports. A recent evaluation of ten of these schools demonstrated electrical savings that averaged 17% and fuel savings that averaged 18%, for an average cost savings of \$.27 per square foot.

Note: For information about Efficiency Vermont's many contributions to school energy savings, please contact Efficiency Vermont.

### **HIGH PERFORMANCE "GREEN" CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION:**

In a 2007 legislative study, a committee recommended that Vermont adopt the "green" construction standards developed by a group of school facilities specialists from throughout the northeast region, including members from Vermont. Known as Northeast CHPS (Collaborative for High Performance Schools), the construction standards would set a high bar for energy efficiency and a sustainable high-performing indoor environment. 2007 was the year the legislature enacted a suspension on school construction funding, and the recommendations brought forth in the study were not acted upon.

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm\\_construction/high\\_performance\\_report\\_011507.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_construction/high_performance_report_011507.pdf)

