



Batesville School District

Telling a School District's Solar Energy Story

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STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board and Superintendent developed a strategic plan that would help our school district to flourish and grow all while saving money and pouring those savings back into our teacher salaries.



Student
Achievement



Attract &
Retain Staff



Efficiency &
Innovation



Network with
Partners

REDUCE & REUSE

Consolidation - Act 60 passed in 2004 requiring the school district to consolidate if enrollment was less than 350.

Debt - By inheriting the students from Desha, Cushman, Sulphur Rock, & Bethesda, we also inherited their debt.

Communication - 32 town hall meetings were held to inform the public, our partners, and parents about the changes we wanted to make.

Reduce Physical Footprint - Campuses were closed and donated to get them off our books, or utilized for future locations (Preschool offers infant & toddler care).

GETTING STARTED



State Laws
Act 464

Act 464 allows net-metering customers to send electricity to the utility's power grid. At the same time, it allows utilities to take steps to prevent inordinate shifts in their fixed costs to other types of customers.



Solar Partner
Integrity

\$5.4M energy-saving effort funded by a 20-year loan. Performance contract which allows public entities to procure efficiency measured with NO upfront capital and then repays the project cost with the money we save. If the savings don't materialize, the private entity pays the difference. No risk, guarantee --- goal of net-zero.



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Solar panel installation began in August of 2018 and was completed and produced power by May 2019, with **1,483 Panels in the Solar Array.**

ENERGY AUDIT

\$607K

Annual cost of utilities before solar panel initiative

6,238

LED light fixtures replaced, using 1/10 of the energy

420

Centrally controlled thermostats with one central operator

305

Water fixtures and valves with high-efficiency low-flow

119

Single panel windows replaced with double panel.

80

HVAC units replaced with high-efficiency low-flow technology

ENERGY PRODUCED

\$17,850

Electric bill per month before solar



\$4,771

Electric bill per month after solar



\$13,079

Monthly savings

184,800

KILOWATT-HOURS

Amount billed for July 2018

39,200

KILOWATT-HOURS

Amount billed for July 2019

SAVINGS SO FAR

2018 ► \$607,203

Annual cost of utilities before solar panel initiative

2019 ► \$362,100

Annual savings with solar panels & other efficiencies

2022 ► \$5.5M

Amount poured into teacher salaries thus far

MANAGING MASS MEDIA

- Inform media at the ground floor
 - Ensures follow up stories as project develops
- Make a connection with your beat county reporter(s)
- Share process to your social media platforms and inform the community
- Have canned photos, video (b-roll), drone shots
- Be bold! Don't shy away from contacting media outside of your local pool.

► CBS THIS MORNING

School's solar panel savings give every teacher up to \$15,000 raises

► SCRIPPS MEDIA

An Arkansas school district turned energy savings from solar panels into teacher raises

► WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Schools in the US are converting solar power into a pay rise for teachers

► INHABITAT

Arkansas schools save millions by adopting solar power

► THE KELLY CLARKSON SHOW

School Uses Solar Power To Give Teachers A Raise

► THE WEATHER CHANNEL

Sunny Skies in the Forecast for BSD Solar Array, Increasing Teacher Pay

► YALE CLIMATE CONNECT

Arkansas School District Goes Solar, Boosts Teacher Pay

► THE OPTIMIST DAILY

How switching schools to renewables can improve quality of education

KEEP THE GOOD GOING

- Solar Trak Curriculum
- Mobile Solar Kits
- Solar Field Trips
- Horticulture
- Beekeeping
- Gardening

WHAT'S NEXT FOR BSD?

- Continuing to share our story
 - Inquiries from media and school districts monthly
- Internships for students in partnership with Entegriety
 - College & career ready positions
- Partnership with the local hospital for secondary solar array
 - Under construction NOW