

Top North American education institutions named for reducing carbon pollution

MILWAUKEE, April 22, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- Johnson Controls, the global leader in delivering solutions that increase energy efficiency in buildings, celebrates Earth Day by releasing its Top Earth Day Champions in Education list to highlight higher education institutions and kindergarten through 12 (K12) grade school districts in North America that saved the carbon equivalent of 91,800 acres of forest through energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at their facilities.

"Students across North America are celebrating Earth Day with special events and lesson plans," said Dave Myers, president of Johnson Controls Building Efficiency. "Today we celebrate the leaders in K-12 and higher education who teach by example, reducing their facilities' carbon pollution and creating better learning environments for students and staff -- all with a strong financial payback for their communities."

Here are the 2013 Top Earth Day Champions in Education and the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide emissions they are saving annually through projects with Johnson Controls.

Higher Education Earth Day Champions Acres*	Carbon Reduction (metric tons)	Equivalent Forest
University of Massachusetts Amherst (Amherst, Mass.)	41,270	33,828
Missouri State University (Springfield, Mo.)	16,066	13,169
Lone Star College (Houston, Texas)	12,376	10,144
Youngstown State University (Youngstown, Ohio)	10,723	8,789
Tulane University (New Orleans, La.)	7,654	6,274
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K12 Earth Day Champions	Carbon Reduction (metric tons)	Equivalent Forest Acres*
Lester B. Pearson School Board (Montreal, Quebec)	6,117	5,014
Central Bucks School District (Doylestown, Pa.)	5,639	4,622
Calgary Board of		

Education (Calgary, Alberta)	4,920	4,033
Buffalo City Schools (Buffalo, N.Y.)	3,615	2,963
Half Hollow Hills School District (Syosset, N.Y.)	3,575	2,930

*Computed with the United States Environmental Protection Agency Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator

The champions earned a spot on the list by making their educational facilities more efficient using a variety of measures, including utilizing building management systems to optimize energy and operational efficiency, installing renewable energy technology, using more efficient lighting, and updating heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Carbon pollution from building energy use is predicted to grow faster than any other sector in the next 25 years, according to the U.S. Green Building Council, making building efficiency critically important for the protection of the environment.

According to the U.S. National Center of Education Statistics (NCES), colleges and universities annually spend more than \$14 billion in operations and maintenance of buildings and grounds, and up to \$7 billion on energy and utilities.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) reports that K-12 schools spend more than \$8 billion annually on energy, making energy the second highest operating expenditure for schools after personnel. The DOE projects that, on average, green schools save \$100,000 per year on operating costs -- enough to buy 200 new computers or purchase 5,000 textbooks.

Johnson Controls' energy performance contracting projects have saved nearly 19 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, equivalent to that saved by 15.5 million acres of forests, and generated savings of \$7 billion in North America since 2000. With performance contracting, savings in energy consumption from facility upgrades pay for the project over the term of the contract. If the savings are not realized, Johnson Controls pays the difference between the value of the measured and verified consumption and the guaranteed consumption under the contract.

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