

MEA/Rebuild School Financial Incentive Plan

Maryland's 24 school districts include some energy efficiency champions with sophisticated management plans in place and other districts that are ignoring energy management altogether. Those stuck in the middle are often eager to implement energy management efforts, but have trouble addressing this over other competing priorities. The most common complaint from these districts is that they know what they want to do, but don't have the available funds.

Providing small financial incentives for positive changes in energy management behavior could sway many of these energy managers to begin pursuing energy management efforts. By having districts compete in the areas of energy management, MEA could provide some incentives while also gathering success stories that can be used to highlight the state's Rebuild America efforts.

The competition would begin in January of 2006 with each district having the chance to implement some of the strategies learned from MEA workshops, program resources, and account managers. Awards will be awarded at different times (in order to maintain ongoing interest) and all winners would be recognized at the state-wide energy conference in October of 2006. Award applications will be kept intentionally short in order to minimize the labor associated with applying.

Total Project Funds: **\$16,000**

Best Energy Management Plan (March 2006) – The school district that submits the energy management plan with the highest likelihood of saving considerable energy over the next five years will receive \$2,000.

Outstanding Staff Involvement (May 2006) – The school district that can demonstrate the best teachers and staff involvement in their energy management efforts will receive \$2,000. As many districts may not be able to obtain teacher/staff involvement by this point, plans for such involvement will also be considered in the competition.

Outstanding New Construction (July 2006) – The school district that best incorporates energy efficiency into their new building construction plans will receive \$2,000

Superior Energy Savings (September 2006) – The school that can show the greatest energy savings per square foot in the August 2005 to August 2006 timeframe will receive \$3,000.

Any school district that wins one of these competitions can be recognized as a leader in other areas but will only receive one major cash prize. In addition to the awards above, any school district that benchmarks 100% of their eligible schools using ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager will receive a \$500 award.