

## Archive: Success Stories

### Fresno Unified School District Lighting Retrofit Success; \$100 Million in State Grants Now Available for Schools to Undertake Retrofits of Their Own

Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) recently completed a large retrofit project in 984 portable classrooms at 84 school sites expected to save the District \$400,000 in electricity costs annually. In about 12,000 fixtures, [four T12 fluorescent lamps were replaced with two second-generation, 32-watt T8 fluorescent lamps](#), and added to each were a high-efficiency electronic ballast, and new lamp sockets, reflector and lens. Electrical load in these rooms has been reduced by 61%, or 2,763,000 kilowatt-hours annually; light level readings, meanwhile, have improved by up to 60%, improving the learning environment. FUSD contracted [Resource Solutions Group](#) to perform the retrofit under the [School Energy Efficiency Program](#). After nearly \$320,000 in rebates, FUSD's payback should be about 1.4 years, according to FUSD's Frank DiLiddo.



School districts wanting to replicate FUSD's efforts now have some extra help from the State of California. The Department of General Services recently announced that its Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) will [begin awarding \\$100 million in High Performance Incentive Grants to California schools](#) for more energy and resource efficient "green" classrooms. California voters approved this measure last year as part of Proposition 1D. The program will promote the use of high-performance features in new construction and renovations of K-12 schools. Grants will fund designs and materials that promote energy and water efficiency, maximize natural lighting, encourage the use of recycled materials and materials that emit a minimum of toxic substances, and improve indoor air quality and acoustics to help the teaching and learning process.

- » Read about the [School Energy Efficiency Program](#)
- » Read more about [High Performance Incentive Grants](#) for California schools
- » Read more about [linear fluorescent lamps](#)
- » Read more: "[Study Shows That Building Green Saves Schools \\$100,000 a Year](#)" (e-NewsWire, 11/15/06)
- » Energy [efficiency resources for schools](#) and Flex Your Power's [best practices guide for local governments](#)