



# West Babylon Union Free School District

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## Energy Performance Contract Improves Learning Environment

On July 15, 2010, the West Babylon Union Free School District entered into an energy performance contract with Ameresco, an energy efficiency company that identifies energy-saving opportunities in schools and other government buildings. The District first engaged the firm ECG Engineering, PC to provide technical consulting throughout the entire initiative. ECG's service included managing a Request for Proposals, through which Ameresco was ultimately selected. Upon conducting an energy absorption audit in an effort to better understand the district's level of energy consumption, Ameresco made recommendations to the district. The work of identifying and installing new and upgraded energy-efficient equipment in West Babylon began a month later. The projected completion date of this contract is October 2012.

Ameresco will absorb the costs of the energy upgrades until the contract is completed. At that time, a portion of the overall cost savings will be used to reimburse the company, while the remaining savings will be kept by the school district. Reduced spending on increasing energy costs leads to additional funding for educational programs.

Throughout the duration of the contract, a myriad of energy-saving measures have been implemented. Six of the seven schools in the district (excluding South Bay Elementary, which garnered these improvements during its recent reconstruction period) received improvements to their lighting systems, lighting controls and power-saving computer load management systems. Transformers were replaced, and both integrated and new energy management systems were put into place, as well as new weather stripping for the existing exterior doors in many locations throughout the district.

West Babylon High School received an electric power generation system that converts solar energy into electric power. The senior and junior high schools had steam traps replaced and received high-efficiency motors that will contribute to a reduction in electricity use and electrical demand. New piping was installed at both of these schools as well as Forest Avenue Elementary. The drivers' building and bus garage also received integrated and new energy management systems, as well as heating system replacements. The final operation was the installation of rooftop units on the district administration building that replaced the existing heating and cooling system.

The district began realizing the efficiencies of these improvements as the energy conservation measures were being installed. The initial year savings, after all installations have been completed, are estimated to be approximately \$272,087. Ameresco has projected that the guaranteed savings to the district over an 18-year period will be approximately \$6,561,888. In addition, the district should receive roughly \$2,594,079 in New York state building aid. The district has been awarded nearly \$270,570 in energy efficiency rebates from the Long Island Power Authority to date, and may receive nearly \$100,000 more in the future.

"This is a significant amount of savings for the district," remarked Executive Director for Finance and Operations Jennifer Buscemi. "The original rebate estimate, when the contract was signed, was \$57,290, so we are very happy with the outcome."

Superintendent of Schools Anthony Cacciola had this to say about the close of the contract, "I am proud that we were able to complete this project. As outlined in our Long Range Strategic Plan, this is a major step in upgrading our existing facilities in order to compete in the 21st century. This initiative addressed a variety of issues, provided significant savings to the community and improved the learning environment for our students and staff."



Photo Captions 1-3: Examples of the energy-efficient upgrades completed by Ameresco as part of the energy performance contract entered into by the district in 2010 so as to identify and improve upon energy-saving opportunities in the West Babylon Schools. Improvements include new pipe installation (photo 1), new wiring (photo 2), weather stripping of several doors throughout the district (photo 3).