

Conserve My Planet

Allen Independent School District

Allen, Texas



CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- Increased energy conservation awareness, fast adoption
- Flexible, customizable modules
- Annually renewable contract
- Cost-effective approach to behavior modification

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Type:

Conserve My Planet
behavior modification program

Location:

Allen, Texas, U.S.

Property:

Initial implementation — 16 elementary schools
(1.5 million ft²)

Annual Utility Savings:

\$73,500

Implementation:

2011



Allen ISD elementary schools saved \$73,500 and reduced CO₂ emissions by 423 tons within the first year of implementing the Schneider Electric Conserve My Planet program.

Tasked with cutting its energy budget by 10 percent, Allen Independent School District (Allen ISD) tapped into the power of the Schneider Electric™ Conserve My Planet program to generate significant savings while reducing energy consumption.

The challenge

Allen, Texas is home to almost 86,000 residents in a community just 23 miles north of Dallas. More than 19,000 students attend grades K-12 in the district's 16 elementary schools, three middle schools, a freshman center, and a high school.

By 2011, school officials had tried a variety of ways to tackle ongoing issues related to budget cuts, energy costs, and reduced consumption. Allen ISD had tried offering optional conservation programs, as well as controlling temperature set points and building schedules. Despite yielding some savings, these efforts fell short of gaining widespread adoption or delivering significant results.

When the state cut annual funding by 10 percent (approximately \$650,000), Allen ISD turned to its Energy Management team for some new ideas. Focused on cutting energy costs and operating buildings more efficiently, the team's facilities director and energy manager looked for a new approach to achieving their energy objectives.

Determined to save 10 percent of the district's electricity and gas costs year over year, they knew they would need buy-in and participation from staff and students alike. After evaluating innovative

programs and proposals from different vendors, Allen ISD chose the Schneider Electric Conserve My Planet program.

Conserve My Planet engages students, teachers, and staff in innovative ways, encouraging them to take an active role in using energy more efficiently in school and at home. As a result, the Energy Management team ended up enlisting the support of science teachers, principals, the communications director, and others to effectively implement the program.

“The results surpassed our expectations; as a result, we've decided to extend the program to our middle and high schools.”

Roy Mitchel
Energy Manager, Allen ISD

The solution

Designed specifically for K-12 schools, Conserve My Planet offers a flexible approach to energy use that features three main components: Curriculum, Behavior, Equipment. School districts may select and customize any — or all — of the components to meet their specific needs.

- **Curriculum** provides lesson plans and teaching materials to aid students and staff in understanding energy and how to become more energy-efficient.
- **Behavior** engages students and staff through activities and programs that take the plan from paper to reality and drive new habits.
- **Equipment** deals with design and facility improvements that lead to lower utility bills while increasing student and staff comfort and safety levels.

Allen ISD opted to begin by implementing the Behavior module in its 16 elementary schools. Decision-makers believed behavior modification offered the best solution for quickly reducing energy costs, noting that these efforts would supplement capital improvement plans already underway.

Working closely with Allen ISD, Schneider Electric helped craft a unique program that tapped into the competitive spirit of the district's teachers and students. Staff and students raised the bar with their creativity and dedication to energy efficiency, demonstrating how they could play an active role in using energy more efficiently in school and at home.

The bottom line

Schneider Electric provided Allen ISD with an energy and sustainability manager to guide the district in planning and implementing an energy awareness campaign for the elementary schools. The campaign focused on changing the behaviors of everyone — administrators, teachers, and students.

Allen ISD's first energy conservation event reduced energy spending by \$31,000 in just over two months. At the end of the first year, the district had saved \$73,500 and reduced CO₂ emissions by 423 tons — the equivalent of removing 95 cars from the roads for a year.

Pleased with the first year's results, Allen ISD signed up for a second year that includes plans to implement Conserve My Planet efforts in the middle and high schools.