

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why is the District considering solar power to meet its energy needs?**

The Davenport Community School District is considering the use of solar power to meet electrical needs in our schools and buildings for a couple of reasons. First, decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels and reducing our carbon emissions is the right thing to do. The District has also been working to lower its energy costs for a number of years with a focus on energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

- **What steps have the District already taken to become more energy efficient?**

We've taken a number of steps to increase our energy efficiency over the past 15 years:

- We have 15 schools using geothermal heating and air conditioning which provides an ongoing annual savings of thousands of dollars per building.
- We continue to move from metal halide lights to LED lighting which uses 80% less energy with the same output of light. LED lights last 4-5x longer than metal halide lights.
- All mechanical equipment we install is energy efficient.
- We use a Building Automation System to control heating and cooling in our buildings, particularly during times when our buildings are not in use by students and staff.
- Additional insulation on new roofs and upgrades to double-pane windows
- Our employees have an ongoing energy efficiency initiative aimed at cutting energy consumption in our buildings. Many of our buildings have been able to cut energy consumption by more than 10% over the past year.

- **Why is energy efficiency so important?**

When we are able to reduce our natural gas and electrical costs in our buildings it can result in an ongoing savings to our General Fund. The General Fund is the portion of our funding that directly impacts our classrooms since it pays for instructional materials, supplies and equipment, along with salaries and purchased services.