



# Radnor Township School District

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Radnor Township School District's Green Tradition

The Radnor “green” journey began in 1997, when discussions were first held about building a new elementary school. RTSD operations director Leo Bernabei came from a traditional, old-school facilities vantage, and when he first heard about geothermal wells instead of boiler rooms and the use of low volatile organic compounds, he was skeptical. Understanding the need for improved indoor air quality and researched learning environments, however, he embraced the latest in green building construction technologies and now leads the charge in Radnor to provide the very best indoor environments for children.



Here are just some eco-friendly points about Radnor Township School District:

- Radnor Elementary School, completed in 2001, was the first green public elementary school in Pennsylvania. It was awarded the Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence, the Sustainable Industry Council Award and the Learning by Design Award. The district was awarded multiple grants for the installation of a 60-panel photovoltaic system to provide electricity from the sun.
- Radnor Township School District was named a recipient of the 2005 *Green Power: Turn It On!* Award from Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future (PennFuture) and the 2003 national award winner from the Department of Environmental Resources for Indoor Air Quality.
- As of the completion of Radnor Middle School (Sept. 2007), only 54 k-12 schools in the United States had achieved LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Studies have shown that green schools use 30-50% less energy, 30% less water, reduce asthma by about 40% and have positive health impacts from the improved air quality. RMS is registered for LEED and hopes to achieve gold LEED certification. RMS was awarded a Governor’s Green Schools Grant in the amount of \$25,000 in 2007 for the installation of a green touch screen to inform building visitors about the green concepts used in the new facility.
- The Radnor Middle School is a four-story, 194,822 square foot building with numerous green building features, including a green vegetated roof, terrazzo floor with recycled glass, geothermal heating system and low VOC (volatile organic compound) materials providing improved indoor environmental air quality. Its asphalt roof with “cool membrane” light-colored roofing material provides increased light reflectivity and reduced heat in the building. And, the use of local and regional manufactured goods within a 500-mile radius has helped reduce transportation pollution during the construction process. About 85% of construction waste by weight was recycled, rather than going to landfills.
- The entire Radnor Township School District practices recycling. About 220 tons of material is recycled per year.
- Schools spend more on energy than on computers and textbooks combined. Building green allows us to create an environmentally sound and resource-efficient building by using an integrated approach to design. Green buildings can be built at market rate and cost much less to operate. They use less fossil fuel, conserving energy that, in turn, generates less pollution and saves on operational costs. Green buildings are healthier for children and enhance productivity. They use less water, and they minimize the use of materials or use materials with the lowest environmental impact. Most importantly, they set an example for children at a young age, so that they grow up to be environmentally conscious adults.
- In 2008, Radnor’s transportation department switched to biodiesel fuel, a cleaner-burning, renewable diesel fuel made from vegetable oils and rendering wastes instead of petroleum. In addition to reducing Radnor’s reliance on foreign petroleum by 20%, the biodiesel blend will improve air quality for the 4,400 students who ride the buses and for township residents. Running the district’s 64 vehicles on the renewable fuel will result in the following emissions reductions each year: particulate matter by 12%, unburned hydrocarbons by 20%, carbon monoxide by 12%, sulfur dioxide by 20%, and carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, by 16%.

Radnor Township, founded in 1682, is located 13 miles west of Philadelphia and comprises 30,000 people. Radnor Township School District covers nearly 14 square miles and includes St. Davids and parts of Wayne, Rosemont, Bryn Mawr, Villanova, Ithan, Newtown Square and Radnor. The school system, which serves a diverse, multicultural population, includes three elementary, one middle and one high school.