



Radnor Township School District

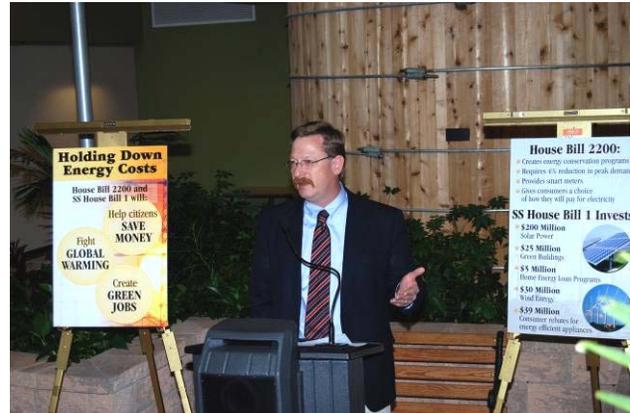
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MEDIA RELEASE

Radnor Township School District Singled out for being Green

Monday, June 23, State Senator Connie Williams called a press conference to urge the Pennsylvania Senate to act on two environmental bills that would help consumers to save money on their energy bills. The event was held in Norristown's DEP building, itself an environmentally friendly building.

On hand were Sec. Kathleen McGinty, Pa. DEP; State Sen. Andrew Dinniman, and representatives Daylin Leach, Bryan Lentz and Greg Vitali, among others. Local communities were represented by RTSD director of operations, Leo Bernabei, John Cacciola, the director of engineering and construction at Villanova University, and Chuck Marshall of Wayne's Central Baptist Church. These last three were invited because of their organizations' commitment to the environment.



“Our reasons for participating in this press event were to support our children’s future and the environmental benefits for our community at large,” said Bernabei. The Radnor “green” journey began in 1997, when discussions were first held about building a new elementary school.

House Bill 2200 and Special Session House Bill 1 were passed by the House of Representatives in February and March and are now awaiting senate approval. The bills would give consumers the tools they need to pro-actively control their energy usage, as well as provide incentives to further green energy programs and grow green energy industry in the Commonwealth.

“The temperature is rising. Gas prices are rising. And with electricity rate caps coming off in the very near future, so will consumer electric bills,” Williams said. “It is imperative that the Senate act now on two important pieces of legislation that will help consumers hold the line on higher energy bills.”

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.

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.



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- 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%.