



Contract Details

Contract Type:

Energy Efficiency; Energy Savings Improvement Program; Energy Supply Procurement; Guaranteed Energy Savings

Facility Size:

437,144 sq. ft.

Energy Project Size:

\$3.2 million

Energy Savings:

\$5,270,000 over 15-year term

Summary

By utilizing the NJ ESIP, Somerset Hills School District is maximizing the use of its existing funds from current budgets to pay for needed capital, energy saving improvements throughout the District.



Ameresco took advantage of a new, innovative state program that enables energy cost savings generated from existing budgets to pay for capital, energy efficiency improvements to facilities at no cost to the Somerset Hills School District.

Customer Benefits

Ameresco was selected and signed a contract for a 15-year Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) project with the Somerset Hills School District in Bernardsville, New Jersey. Upon completion of construction, the District will realize over 23 percent in savings off its current total annual operational spend. The improvements are budget-neutral, thus saving New Jersey taxpayers millions of dollars. By utilizing NJ ESIP, Somerset Hills School District is receiving much needed capital improvements as a result of reinvesting energy savings into the District's facilities.

After construction is completed, the project is expected to generate more than \$5,270,000 in energy and operational cost savings for the District over the life of the project.

The Somerset Hills School District will realize a major reduction in annual utility costs while modernizing existing assets without the need for any capital dollar contributions. All improvements will be 100 percent program financed. This unique project leverages recent New Jersey ESIP legislation, which allows for project funding to be realized through the guaranteed energy cost savings of the project. With assistance from Ameresco, a third-party lender was competitively selected by the District.

Additionally, as a result of implementing this ESIP, the District is expected to receive over \$320,000 in

energy rebates/incentives from the Pay-for-Performance program (P4) sponsored by the NJ Board of Public Utilities Office of Clean Energy. As the District's ESIP partner, Ameresco successfully completed all BPU program applications and Energy Reduction Plans (ERPs) for the District.

Accolades

"We are pleased to partner with Ameresco on these critical infrastructure upgrades that will ensure that our facilities operate more efficiently for years to come. We are proud to be one of the first New Jersey public school districts to utilize the new ESIP legislation to save taxpayers the added expense to upgrade existing district assets and allow our leadership to focus on other important areas."

- Nancy Lee Hunter, Somerset Hills School District Business Administrator and Board Secretary

Environmental Benefits

Through the District's partnership with Ameresco, Somerset Hills is expected to save the equivalent of 9,072 metric tons of CO₂ per year. The green benefit from this carbon reduction is roughly equal to:

- ▶ 1,934 acres of pine forest absorbing carbon
- ▶ 1,779 cars taken off the road for one year
- ▶ 785 households powered for one year

The project helps reduce the need for energy from traditional power plants fueled by fossil fuels.





About the Somerset Hills School District (SHSD), NJ

The mission of the Somerset Hills School District, a visionary learning community, is to ensure that each student discovers the power of his or her unique abilities as a socially responsible citizen of the world through a system distinguished by dedication to innovation, forging global connections, celebration of diversity, creative use of technologies, and compelling learning experiences while maintaining an expectation of achievement beyond the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Learn more at www.shsd.org.

About Ameresco

Ameresco, Inc. (NYSE:AMRC) is one of the leading energy efficiency and renewable energy services providers. Our energy experts deliver long-term customer value, environmental stewardship, and sustainability through energy efficiency services, alternative energy, supply management, and innovative facility renewal all with practical financial solutions. Ameresco and its predecessors have constructed billions in projects throughout North America.

For more information about Ameresco and our full-range of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions, please visit www.ameresco.com.



The District will realize over 23% in savings off its current total annual operational spending, and those savings can be re-invested to benefit students and staff.

Services Provided

Additionally, Ameresco developed, engineered, and is constructing 14 fully self-funding energy conservation measures (ECMs) throughout the district. These measures include: lighting system improvements, lighting controls, updated and integrated energy management system, vending misers, PC load management, boiler replacements, kitchen hood controls, water conservation measures, kitchen pre-rinse sprayer, energy procurement services, window replacements, infiltration reductions, ice storage schedule modifications, and energy efficient transformers.

As the District's ESIP partner, and in compliance with all NJ ESIP and procurement laws, Ameresco publicly bid the implementation of all ECMs comprising the District's ESIP, thus ensuring the best competitive project pricing for each scope of work, and piece of equipment and material needed for the job. Additionally, all NJ Department of Education project applications and approvals were addressed and satisfied.

Ameresco's approach to ESIP enables clients to maximize their energy savings to serve their needs, providing for a more comprehensive project. Energy Savings Improvement Programs are fully supported and approved by the State of NJ (Energy Savings Improvement Law, P.L. 2009, c. 4/DCA Local Finance Notices 10 and 11, 2009). These types of energy saving contracts provide a funding mechanism which enables school districts—and all NJ public institutions—

the opportunity to avail themselves of the benefits of energy efficiency and conservation on a self-funded basis. This allows them to avoid the necessity of significant up-front capital expenditures and voter referendum approvals associated with debt service aid programs. ESIP provides the opportunity for capital facility improvements and retrofits by utilizing energy cost savings generated from existing operating budgets to self-fund the installation of new, more energy efficient equipment, systems and solutions.

The energy savings generated by an ESIP are an untapped source of funding for NJ School Districts—funding that can be put to work to address the capital improvement needs of NJ Schools. Ameresco is an invaluable partner knowledgeable in helping districts realize these savings and customizing an ESIP that is right for their district.

In October 2010, Ameresco conducted an electricity procurement process on behalf of the District. Upon Ameresco's recommendation at the conclusion of the electricity procurement process, the District executed an electricity supply agreement with a third party supplier for a term of 24 months starting in May 2011. Total annual savings to the District is estimated at \$71,800 or 15% of annual supply cost.



For this budget-neutral program, the District expects to receive over \$320,000 in energy rebates/incentives from the NJ Board of Public Utilities Office of Clean Energy and Pay-for-Performance program (P4).