



HIGHLIGHTING THE REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

Noteworthy News

Greening Our Energy Supply

With energy bills rising by double-digits year after year, it is important that we look at solutions to control our increasing energy costs. The District began a project two years ago to evaluate the benefits of two types of “green” energy: Solar Panels and Microturbines. Like many homeowners, more and more public institutions are installing alternative energy systems to serve as a key hedge against ongoing projected increases in utility rates. Given current funding and financing options, these projects can be implemented with no additional cost to taxpayers, making them both economically viable and financially responsible.

Solar Energy: The cost of solar power has come down significantly over the past decade, making it a feasible and affordable option for our district. The large flat roofs of our school buildings provide ideal locations for solar panels. Many districts throughout Westchester have begun solar initiatives and are realizing energy cost savings.



Microturbine: Microturbines are combustion turbines that are fueled by natural gas, which powers the turbine, and turns a generator to produce electricity. Natural gas is cost effective and the cleanest of all fossil fuels, releasing up to 50% less CO₂ than coal and 20-30% less than oil. An added benefit of microturbines is that the hot exhaust air created in this process can be recovered and used to heat pool water or boilers reducing costs even further. Creating energy on-site would also give the school some protection against power outages.



We believe that not only would these systems contribute to environmental sustainability in our town, the cost savings would contribute to the financial stability of our schools in the years ahead. The anticipated savings in operating expenses would fund our investments in these systems making them financially responsible solutions.

Perhaps more importantly though, renewable energy installations would also provide our teachers with unique opportunities to teach concepts in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) using our own district as a “real-world” case study. Our environmental club has been a part of our evaluation process to date and we thank Jad Chaar, who worked as an intern under Joe Urbanowicz, for his contributions to our research studies. As we move forward, we foresee many opportunities to incorporate lessons using our installations as examples into our science and math curriculums.

Additional details on our capital investment plan can be found on our website and will be provided in the next district newsletter.

