



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) are charting the course toward sustainability with a holistic approach to learning, energy, and environmental practices. NORESCO has served VBCPS through 11 phases of work since 2008.

VBCPS selected NORESCO for its first phase of sustainability work using energy savings performance contracting in 2008, and NORESCO has continued as a trusted partner to VBCPS through a total of 11 phases of work and three competitive requalifications under a master contract arrangement. Our work has involved more than 50 schools and more than 4 million square feet of building space.

At VBCPS, the commitment to sustainability is codified in board policy and environmental practices, from use of innovative energy management approaches, through curriculum integration that engages teachers and students, and further through construction standards.

Timely phases of energy savings performance work, implemented as work orders with NORESCO, help VBCPS achieve its written purpose: providing “a healthful learning/working environment which contributes to protecting, conserving, and enhancing the nation’s environmental resources while providing long-term savings to taxpayers through lower operating costs.”

As part of VBCPS’ strides toward sustainability, several NORESCO specifics stand out. The 2016 ASHRAE Technology Awards Program recognized work at Strawbridge Elementary, centered on a new ground-source heat pump system, with first-place awards at the local and regional levels and Honorable Mention at the national level. For 2012, work performed by NORESCO (including collaboration on customized energy education and awareness programs) helped the district achieve national recognition from the U.S. Green Building Council as the Best of Green Schools district winner.

VBCPS’ work with NORESCO is calculated to reduce annual emissions of carbon dioxide equivalent by more than 13,000 metric tons. That equates to the amount of carbon sequestered annually by more than 16,000 acres of average U.S. forest.

Project Cost: \$35.8 Million across 11 Phases

Annual Cost Savings: \$1.6 Million

Contract Term: Varies by Phase

Contract Type: Energy Savings Performance Contract

Technical Highlights:

NORESCO’s work for VBCPS has included installation of ground-source heat pump systems at three schools, providing a sustainable source of space comfort for more than 2,300 students.

“A lot of people might build LEED buildings and stop there. But we’re trying to develop the infrastructure, then integrate sustainability throughout the school district and educate the public at the same time. These buildings become tangible objects around the city, so when we talk about this stuff, people can see things happening, and realize it’s not rocket science.”

Tim Cole

Sustainability Officer

Virginia Beach City Public Schools

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