



# 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. NORESKO has served VBCPS through 14 phases of work since 2008.*

VBCPS selected NORESKO for its first phase of sustainability work using energy savings performance contracting in 2008, and NORESKO has continued as a trusted partner to VBCPS through a total of 14 phases of work and three competitive requalifications under a master contract arrangement. Our work has involved more than 50 schools and more than 4.4 million square feet of building space.

Timely phases of energy savings performance work, implemented as work orders with NORESKO, 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 NORESKO 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 NORESKO (including collaboration on customized energy education and awareness programs) helped VBCPS achieve national recognition from the U.S. Green Building Council as the Best of Green Schools district winner. In 2025, VBCPS was awarded the AEE Institutional Energy Management Award, achieving international recognition for its commitment to energy stewardship.

VBCPS also engaged NORESKO’s Green Operations team to integrate project phases into student learning. Through learning modules and resources like augmented reality (AR) sandboxes and mobile lighting labs, student learning was enriched while supporting VBCPS’ robust sustainability goals.

**Project Cost:** \$41.3 Million Across 14 Phases

**Annual Cost Savings:** \$1.8 Million

**Contract Term:** Varies by Phase

**Contract Type:** Energy Savings Performance Contract

## Technical Highlights:

NORESKO’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.

VBCPS’ work with NORESKO is calculated to reduce annual emissions of carbon dioxide equivalent by more than 14,000 metric tons. That equates to the amount of carbon sequestered annually by more than 16,000 acres of U.S. forest.

**“... our cost avoidance exceeds \$70 million. A large part of that savings is due to performance contract work. However, the cost savings don’t tell the complete story. What drew me towards working with NORESKO was the ability to link performance contract work to educational opportunities in, and out, of the classroom. You and your team continue to exceed our expectations in this regard.”**

**Tim Cole**

Former Sustainability Officer  
Virginia Beach City Public Schools

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