

Energy Star Award

May 2004

The Lamplighter School may be 50 years old but its HVAC system is 21st century state of the art. Partnering with Charles Hansford, President of 4-L Engineering and Daren Sinkule and John Woodward of T.E.A.M. Solutions, the school has earned the EPA designation of [ENERGY STAR](#)[®].



Located in Dallas, Texas on 12 beautifully landscaped acres, Lamplighter serves students in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade. The indoor facility is made up of 30 classrooms, a fine arts wing, a Media Center, a spacious auditorium, and a premier children's fitness facility. One unique feature of the indoor facility is the openness of the building, accomplished through the use of extensive glass, skylights, and classrooms without doors, which open to a shared space. The extensive outdoor environment is where Lamplighter differs from other independent schools. It includes a unique playground with playhouses and a tunnel; a barn complete with chickens, a cow, and a pig, flower, butterfly, herb, and vegetable gardens; and an adjoining creek area.

The school, designed by well-known architect, ONeil Ford, with additional buildings designed by Frank Welch and Associates, has been a showcase for the innovative Lamplighter School program, which is based on cooperative learning and the construction of knowledge.

In keeping with the progressive nature of the school, Lamplighter is continually looking for ways to improve. A facilities management system with Johnson controls was installed in 1985. By 2000, it was obvious that this system needed upgrading. Charles Hansford, President of 4-L Engineering, rated the energy efficiency of the school on the ENERGY STAR scale of 1-100. The school scored a low seven. Beginning in the spring of 2003, 4-L Engineering and T.E.A.M. Solutions made extensive renovations to the HVAC system. The changes made, however did not require ripping out the vintage 1968 equipment. Improvement came from changing the way the system operates. We now have a variable flow system and are able to shut the system down in areas not occupied. Filtration on the system was changed and the building was pressurized. Internet software was added, making it possible to monitor and control the system remotely. Daily energy consumption is monitored via the TXU Energy Load Analyzer program.

Through the renovations, Lamplighter has reduced its energy consumption by 47 percent. We have also been able to significantly reduce fumes from lawn equipment, automobile exhaust, pollens, and other antigens, improving the quality of the classroom environment. When the system was rated again in the spring of 2004, the school scored 79. The ENERGY STAR success was achieved by cooperative participation coupled with an ongoing energy usage maintenance program.

Lamplighter is one of only three schools in Texas to be recognized with the ENERGY STAR label. Throughout the United States, only 338 schools proudly display the ENERGY STAR plaque.

For more information on Lamplighter's ENERGY STAR certification, please contact Marynell Murphy at 214-369-9201, ext. 343 or at mmurphy@thelamplighterschool.org.