

# CenterPoint Energy

## Energy Efficiency Programs Bulletin



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### ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

SCORE<sup>SM</sup> and CitySmart<sup>SM</sup> are no-cost programs offered by CenterPoint Energy to school and government customers to improve energy efficiency and reduce operating costs.

The programs offer a combination of the following services:

- Benchmarking energy performance among facilities.
- Developing an Energy Master Plan to assist the partner in managing costs.
- Assisting in identifying cost-effective projects and funding sources.
- Providing financial incentives for energy saving achieved from completed projects.
- Promotion of the partners' accomplishments through communications support.

*The programs are sponsored by CenterPoint Energy and administered by CLEAResult Consulting. For more information, please contact CLEAResult at (512) 327-9200 or [kputman@clearesult.com](mailto:kputman@clearesult.com).*

*You may also contact Cheryl Bowman, CenterPoint Program Manager, at (713) 207-5631 or [cheryl.bowman@centerpointenergy.com](mailto:cheryl.bowman@centerpointenergy.com).*

### SCORE Partners Phase Out T12 Lights

After a number of years of high electric bills and poor quality light due to outdated T12 lighting, Alief ISD recently completed a much-needed district-wide upgrade.

They're not alone. Alief ISD is one of six school districts that have already earned incentives from CenterPoint Energy's SCORE Program this summer. As previously reported, the ballasts used to power T12 lighting

will soon no longer be available, meaning there's never been a better time to phase them out of your buildings.

"We've known for quite some time that we needed to upgrade our lighting," said Energy Manager Mathew Browne. "The combination of greater energy efficiency and improved facilities for our students is compelling enough on its own, but the phase out of T12 lights nationwide certainly added urgency."



With the assistance of more than \$12,200 in SCORE incentives, the district has already installed high-efficiency T8 fixtures in 13 of its schools. This will save nearly 100,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, equivalent to preventing the carbon dioxide emissions of more than 8,000 gallons of gasoline, according to Environmental Protection Agency Calculations.

Alief ISD isn't stopping there, however. The district already has plans to make further improvements, and recently approved 22 additional lighting retrofit projects that will be complete by the end of the year.

### Houston ISD Joins SCORE Program

Houston Independent School District, the largest district in Texas and the seventh largest in the U.S., is partnering with CenterPoint Energy in the SCORE Program to minimize energy costs, provide infrastructure improvements, and create optimum learning environments for students. The district plans to achieve these goals by upgrading the energy efficiency of the lighting and air conditioning systems in more than eight schools.

"The most important thing right now is focusing our attention toward choosing lighting and air conditioning technology that will allow our facilities to achieve maximum energy savings," said Bill Kuykendall, Houston ISD's project manager. "The SCORE Program is involving personnel from all departments in the decision-making process so that everyone understands the financial benefits of investing in these projects."

Instead of installing traditional technology, Houston ISD is taking a more cost-effective approach and incorporating high efficiency lighting and air conditioning equipment throughout its facilities.



## PARTNER SUCCESS

The following SCORE partners completed projects and received incentives this summer:

**Alief ISD**  
\$12,217

•

**Clear Creek ISD**  
\$17,315

•

**Fort Bend ISD**  
\$25,087

•

**Tomball ISD**  
\$2,685

•

**Katy ISD**  
\$2,083

•

**Humbe ISD**  
\$2,958

**Congratulations  
Partners!**

## Benchmarking Your Energy Efficiency Project

The first step in increasing efficiency is understanding how your facilities are currently performing. The benchmarking process compares your buildings' energy performance against buildings in similar climates across the country. The results help identify which of your facilities offer the greatest opportunity for energy and cost savings.

Whether it's a surprisingly efficient older building or a brand-new building scoring lower than anticipated, there is always something constructive to be learned during the benchmarking process. Your completed benchmarking report lays the foundation for long-term energy efficiency improvement.

*Benchmarking is a free service offered by the SCORE and CitySmart Programs. For more information about benchmarking your facilities, please contact Kevin Putnam at (512) 327-9200 or [kputman@clearesult.com](mailto:kputman@clearesult.com).*

## Measuring Success

Clear Creek Independent School District joined the SCORE program in 2008 in order to increase the efficiency of its schools and improve classroom comfort. As it nears completion on its current project, the district has already established itself as a leader in heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) system efficiency.

Rather than simply replace its old HVAC equipment, CCISD chose to install high-efficiency water-source heat pumps, which will produce energy savings in more ways than one. Water-source heat pumps not only use less energy directly, but also produce secondary benefits such as reduced fan and cooling tower energy use.

The project was especially notable for its measurement and verification (M&V). In previous years, projects that could not be measured by deemed savings estimates were not eligible for incentives. However, SCORE Program technical staff performed detailed M&V work on the project, capturing accurate energy savings of a system that isn't eligible for deemed savings. Don't let detailed M&V requirements deter you from taking on an efficiency project; your CenterPoint efficiency program can help!

## Q&A With Cheryl Bowman, CenterPoint Program Manager

*How does CenterPoint benefit from offering these programs?* These programs help CenterPoint achieve state mandated goals to reduce load growth on the transmission grid.

*What's the most satisfying aspect of the programs for you personally?* Having worked in energy efficiency for a number of years, it's always gratifying to help someone learn about what measures can make a difference in their energy usage. The energy managers I'm working with now are very informed and very appreciative of the incentive dollars that will help fund future projects.

*In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge schools, cities, and businesses face when trying to implement energy efficiency projects?*

Funding is the biggest hurdle. Doesn't matter if it's a school district or an

individual, some of the upgrades are costly.

*Let's say, hypothetically speaking, that all cities and schools complete high-efficiency lighting, air conditioning and roofing retrofits over the next few years. What types of projects do you see becoming more prevalent in the future?* Good question. The market transformation programs are to encourage builders, schools, cities to think first about energy efficiency when making purchasing decisions concerning equipment for either retrofit or new projects. Once the market has been transformed, the program should go away if no advances in technology have been made. But technology does advance and we continue to see that in lighting and controls.