



# Batesville School District

## Telling a School District's Solar Energy Story

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### STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board and Superintendent developed a strategic plan that would help our school district to flourish and grow all while saving money and pouring those savings back into our teacher salaries.



Student Achievement



Attract & Retain Staff



Efficiency & Innovation



Network with Partners

### REDUCE & REUSE

**Consolidation** - Act 60 passed in 2004 requiring the school district to consolidate if enrollment was less than 350.

**Debt** - By inheriting the students from Desha, Cushman, Sulphur Rock, & Bethesda, we also inherited their debt.

**Communication** - 32 town hall meetings were held to inform the public, our partners, and parents about the changes we wanted to make.

**Reduce Physical Footprint** - Campuses were closed and donated to get them off our books, or utilized for future locations (Preschool offers infant & toddler care).

### GETTING STARTED



State Laws  
**Act 464**

Act 464 allows net-metering customers to send electricity to the utility's power grid. At the same time, it allows utilities to take steps to prevent inordinate shifts in their fixed costs to other types of customers.



Solar Partner  
**Entegrity**

\$5.4M energy-saving effort funded by a 20-year loan. Performance contract which allows public entities to procure efficiency measured with NO upfront capital and then repays the project cost with the money we save. If the savings don't materialize, the private entity pays the difference. No risk, guarantee --- goal of net-zero.



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Solar panel installation began in August of 2018 and was completed and produced power by May 2019, with **1,483 Panels in the Solar Array.**

### ENERGY AUDIT

**\$607K**

Annual cost of utilities before solar panel initiative

**6,238**

LED light fixtures replaced, using 1/10 of the energy

**420**

Centrally controlled thermostats with one central operator

**305**

Water fixtures and valves with high-efficiency low-flow

**119**

Single panel windows replaced with double panel.

**80**

HVAC units replaced with high-efficiency low-flow technology

### ENERGY PRODUCED

**\$17,850**

Electric bill per month before solar  
▼

**\$4,771**

Electric bill per month after solar  
▼

**\$13,079**

Monthly savings

**184,800**

KILOWATT-HOURS

Amount billed for July 2018

**39,200**

KILOWATT-HOURS

Amount billed for July 2019

### SAVINGS SO FAR

2018 ► **\$607,203**

Annual cost of utilities before solar panel initiative

2019 ► **\$362,100**

Annual savings with solar panels & other efficiencies

2022 ► **\$5.5M**

Amount poured into teacher salaries thus far

## MANAGING MASS MEDIA

- Inform media at the ground floor
  - Ensures follow up stories as project develops
- Make a connection with your beat county reporter(s)
- Share process to your social media platforms and inform the community
- Have canned photos, video (b-roll), drone shots
- Be bold! Don't shy away from contacting media outside of your local pool.

#### ► CBS THIS MORNING

School's solar panel savings give every teacher up to \$15,000 raises

#### ► SCRIPPS MEDIA

An Arkansas school district turned energy savings from solar panels into teacher raises

#### ► WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Schools in the US are converting solar power into a pay rise for teachers

#### ► INHABITAT

Arkansas schools save millions by adopting solar power

#### ► THE KELLY CLARKSON SHOW

School Uses Solar Power To Give Teachers A Raise

#### ► THE WEATHER CHANNEL

Sunny Skies in the Forecast for BSD Solar Array, Increasing Teacher Pay

#### ► YALE CLIMATE CONNECT

Arkansas School District Goes Solar, Boosts Teacher Pay

#### ► THE OPTIMIST DAILY

How switching schools to renewables can improve quality of education

## KEEP THE GOOD GOING

- Solar Trak Curriculum
- Mobile Solar Kits
- Solar Field Trips
- Horticulture
- Beekeeping
- Gardening

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR BSD?

- Continuing to share our story
  - Inquiries from media and school districts monthly
- Internships for students in partnership with Entegrity
  - College & career ready positions
- Partnership with the local hospital for secondary solar array
  - Under construction NOW