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DSISD TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

DRIPPING SPRINGS, Texas—The Dripping Springs Independent School District (DSISD) is achieving big savings with energy-efficient behavior — and now those good habits are earning national recognition. DSISD has achieved a 23 percent cost savings totaling \$502,007 in 14 months since forming a strategic alliance with Cenergistic, a national energy conservation company, which will present the district with its Environmental Excellence Award at the Feb. 24 Board meeting.

“Reaching this level of savings at this stage of the program is a significant achievement. The District has done an excellent job of implementing Cenergistic’s organizational behavior-based approach to energy conservation and maintaining productive efforts at all levels of the organization,” said Dr. William S. Spears, chairman and founder of Cenergistic.

“We are proud of the commitment that our staff has made to reduce energy usage through changes in routine behavior,” said DSISD Superintendent Bruce Gearing. “Our involvement in this program also has set a good example for students about the importance of being good stewards of our environment.”

A primary benefit of the Cenergistic program is that all costs come out of the existing utility budget, with savings projected to more than pay for the program. Additional savings can be redirected to other parts of the budget.

The conservation program examines all areas of energy use throughout Dripping Springs ISD — natural gas and electricity, water and sewer, HVAC systems, Energy Management Systems (EMS) and mechanical systems, behavior modification, communications, grounds care, data analysis, information systems management, organization development, construction management, human resources, utility rate structures, and many other areas of specialization that positively impact energy conservation. Cenergistic works closely with DSISD’s Energy Specialist, Jaime Dydalewicz, to ensure that energy is used as efficiently as possible.

The program delivers an environmental benefit from a reduced carbon footprint. Energy not used prevents the emission of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. According to EPA/EGrid figures, in the first 14 months of the program, Dripping Springs ISD saved 14,823 MMBTU, the equivalent of 2,008 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions being prevented, 418 cars removed from the road, or 51,485 pine trees grown for 10 years.

Ms. Dydalewicz tracks the district’s energy consumption — including electricity, water, sewer, natural gas and fuel oil — using energy-accounting software. By tracking consumption and analyzing energy use, she can quickly identify and correct areas that need immediate attention.

Cenergistic is a technology-powered, data-driven energy conservation company that helps organizations reduce consumption of energy resources. For the past five years, Cenergistic has earned national recognition from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, including the ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year – Sustained Excellence Award in 2011, 2012 and 2013.