

Wild for Efficiency at Wildwood Elementary School



“We wanted to do the right thing for the environment and save taxpayers money, so it was a win-win choice for us.”

Mark Larson,
Superintendent of
Mahtomedi Public Schools

The staff at Wildwood Elementary School in Mahtomedi, Minnesota wanted to build as efficiently as possible to demonstrate one of the district’s core values to the community. Committed to being environmentally responsible, building efficiently not only proved a point, but also made economic sense.

“We wanted to do the right thing for the environment and save taxpayers money, so it was a win-win choice for us,” said Mark Larson, Superintendent of Mahtomedi Public Schools.

Though higher-efficiency items often cost more up front, Larson says the long-term savings, and energy they would continue to save for years to come, more than made up for it.

In the new school, they opted for LED lighting as well as motion sensors and the use of natural daylight to cut electricity costs. The ceilings are structured to allow maximum lighting, and the heating and cooling system is also highly efficient. The work paid off: the building achieved LEED Silver certification.

Staff and students love the new space. After a particularly cold Minnesota winter, the insulation and heating efficiencies kept heating costs to a minimum and kept everyone inside warm and comfortable.

During its first year of occupancy, total energy use per square foot at the new Wildwood Elementary was 31 percent lower than the previous year at the old building. This is especially interesting considering that the new school is 35 percent larger than the old school.

Project Highlights

Estimated annual energy savings	118,084 kWh
Estimated peak energy reduction	44%
Estimated annual energy cost savings	\$19,322

This project participated in [Xcel Energy’s Energy Design Assistance program \(EDA\)](#), a whole-building design approach used to maximize energy savings potential. Computerized energy modeling is used to identify various efficiency opportunities, potential costs, rebates available and paybacks.

If you’re planning a new construction, addition or major renovation project, visit [xcelenergy.com/BusinessNewConstruction](https://www.xcelenergy.com/BusinessNewConstruction) or call the Business Solutions Center at **855.839.8862**.