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Energy saving program at Owego-Apalachin

Updated: 7/11/2007 6:10 PM
 By: Dana Hendrickson

OWEGO, N.Y. -- Meet Eric Kochis, the Owego-Apalachin Central School District's energy conservation specialist. Some know him better as the "Energy Czar."



Kochis said, "If my boss leaves his lights on accidentally I'll walk over and I'll turn them off."

But soon Kochis will have someone telling him when to turn off the lights. About a month ago he was contacted by a company called Energy Curtailment Specialists.

Kochis said, "When there is a peak demand in New York State for one of the power grids, they would contact us for example and say hey between 1 and 3 we're going to see a big demand in the power grid in Upstate New York."

So on a hot day, for example, the Buffalo-based company will call the school and then certain measures are taken.

Ron Bieber, Head Building Mechanic, said, "If we're not in session we can virtually turn the buildings almost completely off."

During class though, students shouldn't notice any changes.

"We would obviously do what we could, we wouldn't do anything that would affect the student in any way."

Soon the company is installing meters at the school to monitor energy used. It's at no cost to the district and the company actually pays them if goals are met at during certain times.

WATCH THE VIDEO



Energy saving program at Owego-Apalachin

A Tioga County School District continues to make strong efforts to conserve energy. Since 2004 they've seen \$800,000 in cost avoidance. But they're about to save more money and energy. News 10 Now's Dana Hendrickson tells us they are the only school in the Broome, Tioga and BOCES region participating in a program that tells them when it's time for lights out.

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Stephen Jensen, District Public Information Coordinator, said, "When you look at a whole \$37 million school budget, it doesn't seem like a lot. But that \$5,000 could be put into another cost saving energy program."

The spokesperson for the school has submitted a request for a resolution to the Binghamton City Council, in hopes others will take a look at the program and see the light.

The Buffalo-based company serves hundreds of businesses, districts, and municipalities in New York State.






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