K-12 | FAQs

1. Who is Cenergistic? What is the partnership between the district and Cenergistic?

   Based in Dallas, Texas, Cenergistic has helped K-12 school districts, universities, municipalities and health care facilities across the country find millions of dollars in energy savings by optimizing and reducing all energy use: power, water and natural gas. Cenergistic's solution is a comprehensive approach to efficiency and cost control unlike traditional equipment vendors and engineering firms. Cenergistic's three main goals are comfort, cost savings and developing a culture of sustainability among employees through our energy program.
   The District established a partnership with Cenergistic to improve sustainability, reduce utility costs and improve comfort levels in facilities.

2. What makes the Cenergistic Program unique?

   Optimization of existing systems and scheduling, rather than simple replacement of equipment, is a core strategy of the Cenergistic model. Behavior-based initiatives build participation in conservation efforts and increase momentum to create a strong mindset of conservation within the client community. These efforts maximize the use of facilities and equipment, complementing existing strategies without adding capital expense.

3. What are the expected benefits of the Energy Program?

   Primary benefits of the project are to find energy savings across the District through advanced cloud-based, machine learning software used by Cenergistic Energy Specialists and behavior-based strategies for administration and staff. Energy Specialists continually audit buildings and equipment with the help of technology to ensure that each is running at peak optimization. They also make sure systems are properly scheduled during unoccupied or holiday periods.

4. How can Cenergistic deliver savings in addition to what has already been achieved?

In partnership with the District, Cenergistic delivers recommended guidelines aimed at improving energy conservation and cutting costs. These guidelines take into consideration the unique energy and space needs of our various facilities to align the intended missions.

5. How will we know if we are achieving expected savings?

Efforts are underway to complete the installation of energy accounting software across the District. EnergyCAP® software is licensed independently to the District and adheres to industry guidelines that define how utility savings are calculated and measured. Leadership and supervisory staff have direct access to the software for reporting and analysis. Cenergistic believes in total transparency when measuring and verifying energy reductions and savings.

6. By achieving energy savings goals will faculty and staff become uncomfortable?

Absolutely not. Cenergistic focuses on managing and improving occupant comfort as opportunities are identified to gain operational efficiencies. Cenergistic delivers energy conservation with an organizational behavior-based approach. With help from everyone involved in the organization, we plan to create a culture of sustainability and mindset of conservation that will grow and ensure future success.

7. What will be the impact on staff as the Energy Program advances?

Most changes take place when people aren't in buildings. The program makes every effort to minimize demands on faculty and staff time, but success requires active participation by everyone in the organization. The Cenergistic process continual interaction with occupants through building audits and commitment of resources. In the early stages of the program, Project Managers, Energy Specialists and engineers will request time with your staff. The aim of these meetings and discussions is to ensure we understand the District's operating needs as efficiencies are identified. These interactions become routine as the Energy Specialists gain working relationships at campus locations.

8. Who are the Cenergistic Energy Specialists?

Cenergistic has hired qualified candidates to support District campuses and locations to provide on-site, full- time support for the District. These Energy Specialists ensure that all facilities and systems operate at peak efficiency. As the program gains momentum, these individuals work to become an extension of the staff at each facility.

9. What will I expect to see over the coming weeks?

Cenergistic engineers and conservation experts are on-site now, working with District facilities and Operations leaders to gather information about space and energy use in the District's

buildings. These efforts include evaluating building temperatures, lighting management, space utilization and occupancy patterns. This information is important to identify conservation opportunities at in our campus buildings and facilities.

10. What's included and what will Cenergistic do to reduce energy consumption?

Establishing a strong working partnership with the client community is the first step in developing a sustainable energy conservation program. Cenergistic dedicates specialized staff for the conservation effort to ensure full support at every location. The team of energy engineers and specialists evaluates each building to identify energy efficiencies and optimal building use strategies. These initial observations drive recommendations and work efforts described as Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs). Cenergistic staff work closely with District staff and personnel to implement and manage ECMs.

11. Will faculty and staff members be audited for their energy use? If so, what does that look like?

No, faculty and staff will not be audited, only buildings and equipment. Building audits are a core activity of the Cenergistic Model. Cenergistic engineering and energy specialists evaluate building conditions across both occupied and unoccupied timeframes throughout the year. Audit activity often includes deploying logging devices to capture space temperature, humidity and lighting levels to analyze current building operating conditions, and Cenergistic's new cloud-based, machine learning software that handles big data, analytics and immediate alerts so that building inefficiencies can be handled quickly. These audit observations focus primarily on public spaces and mechanical rooms.

a. Staff should expect to see energy specialists active in buildings across the city
b. The energy audit process will become more routine as the energy program matures.

12. How does this goal help lower the School District's ecological footprint?

Most energy production is largely a byproduct of burning fossil fuels such as natural gas, oil or coal. Carbon dioxide is a byproduct of this process. Improving the efficiency of energy consumption is a straightforward and practical way to reduce the environmental impact from the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Example: 1,000 kWh of electricity consumed is the equivalent to the emissions of 814 lbs. of coal burned or 1.7 barrels of oil consumed. See the following Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) link for additional information: https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator

13. What can I do as a faculty or staff member to help achieve this goal?

Employee involvement starts with energy awareness. A primary focus of the energy program is to target areas that are not in use. Employees can assist in this effort by turning lights off when

exiting rooms and using designated common areas when appropriate during after-hours time frames. Small actions such as dressing for comfort and not propping doors open have a significant impact on energy conservation efforts, as do setting back thermostats and turning off machines and small appliances during a break or holiday week.

14. What can I do as a member of leadership or administration to help achieve this goal?

Communications and a willingness to engage in the process are important from the top down. Open lines of communication help prevent miscommunications or confusion as the energy program gains momentum. The on-site Energy Specialists are focused on comfort first and efficiencies second as they develop partnerships with the building occupants they serve. If you find issues, let the Energy Specialists know and they will work to resolve the issue to the best of their ability. Developing a strong working partnership is an essential element for a successful conservation program!

a. Be on the lookout for communications that will highlight best practices for conservation. We design the energy program to create a culture of conservation. We hope that you take the practices learned in the program and apply them to your daily routine. Leadership by example is a powerful element to ensure the adoption of conservation program.