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## **News Release** Stoughton Utilities

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## **Stoughton Schools Earn ENERGY STAR® Distinction**

STOUGHTON — Stoughton Area School District (SASD) is one of nine school districts in the state in which all of the K-12 schools have earned the ENERGY STAR® certification, according to "Leaders in Efficiency: Energy Star Buildings in Wisconsin." The report was produced by Madison-based Cool Choices in collaboration with the Wisconsin Sustainable Building Council and the Great Plains Institute.

ENERGY STAR certified buildings average 35% less energy use than typical buildings and cumulatively achieve over \$2 billion in annual cost savings nationally. In Wisconsin, there were 582 ENERGY STAR-certified buildings at year-end 2013, up from 43 in 2000, according to the report. K-12 schools account for more than half of the total.

Representatives from Stoughton Utilities and the statewide program Focus on Energy have assisted the school district with measuring and tracking their energy use using ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager; identifying and implementing energy-efficiency updates in the schools; and securing financial incentives.

Over the past six years, SASD has received more than \$30,000 in incentives from Focus on Energy for improvements that reduce energy use by more than 425,000 kilowatt-hours – equivalent to the energy use of about 50 average-sized Wisconsin homes for one year.

"Each of our local schools has made a commitment to using energy wisely, which saves the community money year after year. This is well-deserved recognition for Stoughton Area School District," said Stoughton Utilities Director Robert Kardasz.

Cool Choices "intends this report to inspire additional property owners and managers across Wisconsin to use ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to benchmark their own facilities — an important step in effectively managing energy use." More than 300,000 buildings, or 40% of the commercial market, use the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool.

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Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area; and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.