

## EFFICIENCY 101 Education Leads to Action

Schools across Maine are taking action to save money on their electric bills. Efficiency Maine's cash incentives are helping schools lower energy and maintenance costs, while improving comfort, safety and security. With tight school budgets, rising energy prices and cash incentives available, now is the time to act.

Jim Everett, Physical Plant Supervisor in Fort Fairfield, is committed to education. His commitment reaches beyond the students he and his staff serve to include his own education. Everett attended Efficiency Maine's Building Operator Certification (BOC) course to learn more about how his school system could operate its facilities more efficiently and save money. Following the course, he initiated a series of steps to save money by increasing the energy efficiency of Fort Fairfield's three school buildings.



*Everett said, "We've been pleased with what we have been able to do so far and are always working to spend less on energy and more on education."*



As soon as schools became eligible for Efficiency Maine's cash incentives, Everett took what he learned in the BOC classes and initiated a series of projects, which are helping to reduce his schools' maintenance costs and lower their electric bills. Below are the steps he has taken. They can provide a good checklist for every school wanting to become more efficient.

- **T8 lamps and ballasts** were installed when the older T12 lights started failing and required more frequent lamp changes
- **Compact fluorescents** replaced incandescent bulbs
- **Exit lights** were upgraded to LEDs
- **T5 lighting systems** were installed in the cafeteria and gymnasium
- **Occupancy controls** were placed in closets and storage rooms
- **VendingMisers®** were installed on five vending machines



## HOW TO LEARN MORE

Talk to your supplier or vendor about how you can improve the energy efficiency of your school. If you need to locate a contractor who will assist you in determining the energy savings potential in your facility, or who can install or maintain energy efficient electric equipment, we have a network of Efficiency Maine Program Allies throughout the state who can offer guidance on how best to work with the program. You'll find the list at [efficiencymaine.com](http://efficiencymaine.com) or call toll-free 866-376-2463.

Sometimes talking with a peer is the best way to learn. If you would like to talk with another Maine school that has completed a project that you are considering, just let us know, and we will make the connection.