



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***District joins with Puget Sound Energy and Seattle City Light to preserve natural resources and realize savings***

#### ***Hazen High and Dimmitt Middle School to receive solar panels***

July 17, 2009—  
Renton School District is getting serious about energy conservation. The district has joined with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and Seattle City Light to begin resource conservation programs to reduce consumption and costs of natural resources such as natural gas, electricity, water, and solid waste, which cost school districts across the state millions of dollars annually.



Hazen High School and Dimmitt Middle School soon will install solar panels (like those in the photo) as part of a renewable energy demonstration program with Puget Sound Energy and Seattle City Light.

PSE recently announced that the Renton schools were among four other area school districts to receive grants to install solar demonstration projects, which include monitoring software and classroom curriculum to allow students to track how much electrical energy is being produced from the sun. The 2 kW solar panel arrays will generate enough power on average, to operate 15 notebook computers for 1,000 hours. In addition to the wall-mounted solar panels, the PSE grants include inverters which feed directly into each school's electrical system. The monitoring software, as well as teaching, training and lesson plans, were developed by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) as part of its Solar 4R Schools program. Seattle City Light's solar demonstration project at Dimmitt Middle School, called the Viking One project, includes a roof-mounted solar array and includes the same education and training provided by the BEF.

School districts qualifying for the Solar 4R Schools program submitted proposals detailing their educational goals, how their project will utilize renewable energy at the sites and what steps will be taken to increase

community awareness of the potential for using renewable energy technologies. PSE expects to offer a new round of grants in early 2010.

Part of the PSE program includes a provision to use savings from energy-conservation efforts to support a district Resource Conservation



Manager devoted to reducing costs and conserving a variety of energy, water and environmental resources.

The district currently is implementing a number of interior and exterior lighting and control projects funded through a school construction bond measure overwhelmingly approved by voters in May 2008. The highly-efficient energy conservation measures, along with changes to how staff and students approach energy usage, should result substantial savings.

Renton School District is not unfamiliar with energy conservation; in 1989 the district received an Excellence in Energy Management award, by the Governors Energy Team. Most recently two examples of the result of resource conservation efforts showcased Bryn Mawr Elementary School and McKnight Middle School, which were awarded the EPA “Energy Star” in 2002. The schools were the first school facilities in the Northwest to meet such high standards for resource conservation and energy efficiency.