



## City of River Falls News Release



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### For Immediate Release:

June 6, 2014

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### RIVER FALLS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AND FOCUS ON ENERGY PRESENT RIVER FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT WITH \$143,323.00 CHECK

River Falls School District saves \$150,000 annually in energy costs

On Monday, May 19th, River Falls Municipal Utilities and Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy, presented River Falls School District with a check for \$143,323.00. This check was used for the installation of multiple energy efficient systems and projects at most all of the district's buildings as part of the referendum that passed last year in River Falls, Wisconsin.

Efficiency projects included heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades, LED lighting, boilers and improved automation of facilities energy management. City of River Falls Utility Director Kevin Westhuis says, "this contribution to our school district for energy efficiency and conservation continues to show our Municipal Utilities commitment to community by investing in our customers and assisting them in being more efficient".

By completing these projects, River Falls tax payers will save more than 742,485 kilowatt-hours of electricity and nearly 115,000 therms of natural gas annually—enough energy to power nearly 200 River Falls homes for a year. The School District will also benefit from a nearly **\$150,000 annual savings on its energy bills each year** along with untold maintenance savings and increased comfort levels due to the installation of this new equipment.

The bigger picture of savings is not lost on River Falls School District Superintendent Jamie Benson "Our School District recognizes and appreciates the collaboration with River Fall Municipal Utility and the Focus on Energy program. Our joint School and City interests, and overall partnership, displays how we work together in the best interest of taxpayers, children, and our community, to not only create energy cost savings but also in being energy wise."

Not only do these upgrades save energy and money, but they're also environmentally friendly. The annual environmental benefits are equivalent to offsetting 3443 barrels of oil from being burned – eliminating more than 2 million pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from being released into the atmosphere, or taking 218 cars off the road.



(L-R): Mike Noreen, Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator with River Falls Municipal Utilities;  
Al Bohl, Energy Advisor, Focus on Energy; Stacy Meyers, School Board Chair;  
Chad Smurawa, Director of Finance and Facilities; RFSD, Jamie Benson, Superintendent, RFSD

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