

Cuba Middle/Senior High School



"Home of the Wildcats and Cuba Cardinals"

The Grass is Always Greener: Understanding Sustainability

Cuba Middle-Senior High School



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy is captured from the earth's natural processes costing us nothing to use:

- * *Geothermal heating/cooling systems*, better known as geoechangers, use water pumped through 120 wells drilled 180 feet into the ground to help extract the earth's natural heating and cooling abilities, heating and cooling the entire school except for the gymnasium
- * *60 kilowatt photo-voltaic cells* lining the south side of the school convert sunlight into usable electricity and are powerful enough that excess power can be sold back to the utility company
- * *Daylighting and natural light* is used extensively throughout the building, providing natural light, which, research shows, improves student performance



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy efficient features significantly lower the operating costs of the school:

- * *Use of T8 bulbs for lighting* creates a bright, healthy learning environment by mimicking the full spectrum of light created by sunlight while also saving up to 40% of annual energy costs compared to standard fluorescent lighting
- * *Zoned lighting and motion sensors* in classrooms and hallways creates less demand for electricity
- * *Zoned heating and cooling* divides the entire building into areas with similar heating and cooling needs; each zone is controlled by its own thermostat
- * *Exterior wall and ceiling insulation* dramatically improves indoor comfort by keeping heated or cooled air from escaping



RECYCLED MATERIALS

Recycled materials help save our environment by reusing old materials for new purposes:

- * *100% recycled/recyclable carpeting* is not only created by use of old materials, but can also be recycled for future use in new structures
- * *Crumble rubber athletic fields* use old shredded tires mixed with the existing dirt to help cushion athletes' falls; it is currently used at modern athletic stadiums like the University of Illinois' Memorial Stadium in Champaign
- * *Gymnasium bleacher seating* has been created from recycled materials to create comfortable seating for athletic event spectators