



## Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

### INDOOR AIR QUALITY TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS UPDATE

#### News & Events

- [Register](#) for the **IAQ TFS** National Symposium: December 4 – 6, 2008, in Washington, DC! If you would like to attend the Symposium but have constrained resources, EPA's partner organizations offer a limited number of scholarships to their members. [Visit the Symposium Web page](#) to see if you are a member of one of these distinguished organizations, then contact them to learn more about attending the Symposium on a scholarship.
- **IAQ TFS** National Competitive Awards: Apply today for EPA's [National Excellence](#) Award and [National Model of Sustained Excellence](#) Award. Winners will be honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. held in conjunction with the exciting *IAQ TFS* National Symposium.
- **IAQ TFS** National Non-Competitive Awards: Get recognition today for your IAQ Management Program! EPA accepts applications year-round for the [National Great Start Award](#) and [National Leadership Award](#).

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#### Energy Efficiency and IAQ: Better Together

Contrary to popular belief, energy efficiency and IAQ are not mutually exclusive goals. With a little forethought and organization, you can both save energy and ensure quality indoor environments for staff and students. Many energy efficiency upgrades, such as upgrades in fans, motors, or drives, can actually improve the quality of schools' indoor environments while also maintaining or enhancing energy performance without any extra planning or work. Other upgrades can potentially have a negative impact on IAQ without careful thought and

planning, such as energy recovery systems and also testing, adjusting, and balancing the HVAC system. With so many things to consider, how do you get started combining energy efficiency and IAQ upgrades?

The first step is to take baseline measurements of your buildings' IAQ and energy performance in order to determine what improvements must be made, and how to make them to the advantage of both energy performance and IAQ. Both quantitative data and qualitative observations are important in taking an IAQ baseline to evaluate potential improvements. Quantitative IAQ measurements could include measuring temperature, relative humidity, and ventilation rates (directly or using carbon dioxide concentrations), while a qualitative baseline could involve performing detailed in-house walkthrough evaluations. The [IAQ TFS Action Kit](#) is a free resource with detailed, technical checklists to help you get started in evaluating your buildings' IAQ. To benchmark your energy performance, use EPA's online benchmarking tool, [Portfolio Manager](#). Many other tools and information for schools are available on the [ENERGY STAR Web site page for K-12 schools](#); see their menu of offerings and [become an ENERGY STAR partner](#) to launch your efforts.

If you have or are preparing an energy strategy, focus your attention on raising awareness about IAQ to those who make purchasing—or other kinds of decisions—that could end up impacting IAQ. A good way to raise awareness is to present evidence demonstrating the effect of [IAQ on student and staff performance](#) and how energy efficiency improvements can positively affect IAQ if done correctly and planned carefully.

## Resources for Energy Efficiency and IAQ

- Become an EnergySmart school: [www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/energysmartschools/](http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/energysmartschools/)
- Improve energy performance in K-12 schools: [www.energystar.gov/schools](http://www.energystar.gov/schools)
- Manage and improve IAQ in schools: [www.epa.gov/iaq/schools](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools)

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## Special Feature: School Eco Response Teams

At Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland, students are leading the way to energy efficiency. Through the district's [School Eco Response Team \(SERT\) program](#), students team up with teachers, parents, school building managers, and other school staff to create

and implement a grassroots energy saving strategy for their school. Each Team creates personalized goals and guidelines for energy use based on their school's individual energy baseline. While staff and parents facilitate and guide students in their efforts, it is the students themselves who fuel the progress. Each Team uses different strategies, but many include a ticketing system for "bad" energy behavior and student-run competitions for energy saving between classrooms. Students are rewarded for achieving their energy goals each semester. [Learn more](#) about Montgomery County Public Schools' SERT program.

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## Contact Us or Subscribe

If you would like more information about any of the topics discussed in this Update or would like to subscribe to EPA's *IAQ TfS* Updates, please send an e-mail to subscribe to EPA's *IAQ TfS* Updates, please send an e-mail to [IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com](mailto:IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com).

The [IAQ TfS Program](#) is a comprehensive resource to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting, and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ TfS* Program at [www.epa.gov/iaq/schools](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools).

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