

# **Inter-Lakes School District: How Laker Blue Went Green and Became a Sustainability Model for New Hampshire**



**Award Submission for NHBSR Sustainability Slam,  
submitted by:**



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BACKGROUND:

**Inter-Lakes School District is a cooperative school district serving approximately 1,060 students from pre-school to 12<sup>th</sup> grade from the New Hampshire towns of Meredith, Center Harbor and Sandwich. The district's facilities include three schools (Inter-Lakes Elementary School, Sandwich Central School and Inter-Lakes Junior-Senior High School), and an administrative building (Humiston Building).**

Working with New Hampshire Electric Cooperative and other energy professionals, the Inter-Lakes School District is on track to become the greenest, most energy-diverse school district in the State of New Hampshire.

Ten years ago, the school district leadership faced the hard reality that its facilities and energy infrastructure were in disrepair and were costing taxpayers thousands in wasted energy costs. The School Board and building administrators came together around a shared vision of a school district that would become a model of energy efficiency with a diverse range of renewable energy. It would also seek to integrate that vision with its classroom curriculum, providing its students with experiential learning opportunities.

The first phase focused on the district buildings – weatherization, lighting upgrades, replacement of inefficient and failing HVAC systems and installation of building controls. The second phase of improvements includes:

- **Installation of two new 1.7 MMBTU/Hr output wood pellet boiler systems**
- **Installation of three new grid-tied photovoltaic systems (156 KW, 132 KW, 100 KW)**
- **Installation of 73 MMBTU/yr solar thermal hot water system**
- **Removal and replacement of all existing windows and exterior doors**
- **Replacement of 1,485 interior and exterior lights with LED lamps**

When Phase II work is completed in 2017, ILSD will have:

- **reduced its existing energy costs by 40%**
- **provided 46% of its baseline energy needs by renewable energy sources**
- **replaced 71% of its baseline oil usage by renewable energy sources**
- **replaced 35% of its baseline electricity use by renewable energy sources**
- **created the most diverse energy infrastructure of any school district in the state**
- **integrated its renewable energy and sustainability efforts into the classroom curriculum**
- **improved building safety, comfort and performance**
- **self-funded over \$4.7 million in capital improvements without increasing the current budget**