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**Five Horry County Schools Earn the ENERGY STAR® Award**

MYRTLE BEACH, SC - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy has awarded its ENERGY STAR award to Five Horry County Schools (HCS).

Aynor Middle School, Conway Middle School, Ocean Bay Elementary School, Ocean Bay Middle School, and Palmetto Bays Elementary School have earned the award for their efforts in protecting the environment and demonstrating energy efficiency. The schools were recognized for the ENERGY STAR awards during an HCS Board meeting on May 12.

“I am very pleased these HCS facilities have been recognized with the Energy Star certification and believe it underscores the commitment of our District to deliver and maintain efficient and comfortable spaces for all who use them” said Mark Wolfe, Coordinator of Design, Engineering & Sustainability at HCS.

Control Management, Inc. (CMI) has been providing energy management and building control systems for Horry County Schools (HCS) since 1986 and currently has 55 schools connected to the Siemens APOGEE building management system. HCS uses the system to control energy costs and to remotely monitor and adjust settings. They can also remotely schedule and troubleshoot the heating and air conditioning systems. In addition to the AGPOGEE system, the HCS energy department has performed improvements such as lighting upgrades, to also help the building efficiency.

CMI suspected that several HCS sites may be high performance schools so they performed the benchmark analysis on five schools and all qualified to earn the award.

“Horry County Schools have been a valued customer of ours for 28 years and we are pleased that we could assist them in earning these awards” said Kent Walters, Vice-president of CMI.



Established by the EPA in 1992, ENERGY STAR is a voluntary program aimed at helping businesses and individuals save energy and combat climate change through energy efficient products, homes and buildings.

Awards are based on testing, third-party review and compliance screening to ensure products, homes and buildings are meeting strict energy efficiency requirements set by the EPA. Awardees receive a certificate, decals and are listed on the national ENERGY STAR registry.

School buildings that earn the EPA's ENERGY STAR certification use an average of 35% less energy than typical buildings and also release 35% less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

“EPA applauds this year’s ENERGY STAR award winners, who have demonstrated innovative strategies to help their customers, partners and stakeholders save energy and cut greenhouse gas emissions” EPA Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe said in a release.

