



Your regional, national
and internationally
recognized energy experts

Our Mission

To advance environmental and economic well-being by providing unmatched energy services, products, education, and information based on world-class research.

About Us

Our staff of energy engineers, energy specialists, technical experts, software developers, and energy research librarians work out of our Olympia, Spokane, and satellite offices.

Operating similar to a consulting firm, the WSU Energy Program is a self-supported department within the University.

Within WSU

As a part of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, we report directly to the Dean of the College.

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K-12 School Buildings in the State of Washington **Investigating their condition to better inform solutions**

The **Washington State University (WSU) Energy Program** is currently conducting an in-depth inventory and assessment of the condition of K-12 schools in Washington. This important effort – initiated and funded in 2015 by the Washington State Legislature – will serve as the foundation for building long-term solutions for the educational facilities needs of the state.

An Education Essential

The condition of our K-12 public school buildings is an important part of the learning equation. Without proper learning environments, students will not be able to achieve their full potential. Reliable, up-to-date inventory information is a foundational step toward making sound investments in our learning environments.

Current, accurate information about K-12 public school facilities will help legislators:

- Inform the people of Washington about school facilities needed across the state,
- Understand classroom capacity school districts need to serve new class size mandates, and
- Make informed decisions about how to provide equivalent school facilities for students statewide.

Experts Move Forward Quickly

The effort is well underway. We were able to start quickly because of strong relationships with K-12 schools and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) through our Plant Operations Support Consortium. These strong relationships are based on our role of providing relevant and unbiased expertise on key energy and facilities issues to these clients over many years.

Our teams of field staff are gathering information from visits that they conduct on site at the schools, and they bring those insights together with information that OSPI had previously collected. The information gathered is entered into the Inventory and Condition of Schools (ICOS) database – developed by OSPI – resulting in a single searchable and



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analyzable repository of relevant inventory and condition information about Washington's public school facilities.

Path to Success

Our success so far has been aided by the cooperation and support of OSPI and the school districts themselves, and it relies on work that each has already performed.

The State of Washington has 295 school districts. We will visit over 230 school districts to collect data – such as the age, condition, number, and size of classrooms in K-12 schools and skill centers. Our data-gathering teams have had excellent support and cooperation from the districts that they have visited to date. We appreciate the hard work that school administrators have already undertaken to provide information for ICOS and their willingness to assist the teams during site visits. Their engagement and contributions make a real difference in the overall effort.

Scope and Scale

By the end of 2016, we will:

- Verify elementary classroom counts for districts that apply for K-3 class size reduction grants.
Scope: 90 districts, 650 elementary schools
Deadline: March 2016
Early completion expected: February 2016
- Complete building condition assessments for permanent buildings not currently in ICOS.
Scope: 198 districts, 1,397 buildings
Deadline: December 2016
- Verify existing building inventory and condition data in ICOS for a sample of districts that have received inventory grants since May 2012.
Scope: 51 districts, 610 facilities and over 1,200 potential buildings
Deadline: December 2016



- Measure total square footage of buildings to help define space requirements across building types and districts.
Scope: Sample size is to be determined
Deadline: December 2016
- Verify or enter building condition data for districts that have never received a grant or are receiving a grant by November 2016.
Scope: 34+ districts
Deadline: December 2016
- Submit a report to the Washington State Legislature.
Scope: One report
Deadline: December 2016

Project Expansion

Since the onset of this legislative investment – between original scoping, budgeting and final legislation – the scope was further enhanced by interested legislators. Additional areas of focus include:

- Conducting a K-3 classroom count verification for 90 districts statewide with a tight deadline to meet,
- Conducting building condition assessments for districts applying for new grant awards, and
- Taking net square footage measurements of schools statewide.