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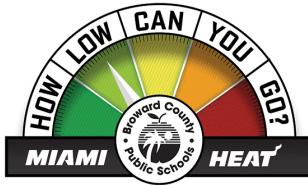
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HEAT, BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS “SEEING GREEN”

HEAT Teams Up with Schools to Reduce Energy Consumption via “How Low Can You Go?” Initiative

MIAMI – For the eleventh consecutive year, the Miami HEAT has challenged Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) to find innovative ways to reduce energy and water consumption at each campus. Through the greening initiative titled “How Low Can You Go?” the team is enticing the schools to raise environmental awareness of CO2 emissions and educate the facilities about potential financial savings through responsible energy and water consumption. This year, BCPS also challenged Palm Beach and Miami-Dade Public Schools to join the challenge. As an industry leader in greening efforts, the HEAT will reward each of the winning schools with a banner during a pregame on-court recognition on Sunday’s Toronto Raptors versus HEAT game.

34 schools registered for the 2023-2024 “How Low Can You Go?” This challenge lasted for three months and schools reduced their kilowatt consumption by a total of 666,980 kilowatt hours (kWh) from November to March, and when compared to 2022–2023, this resulted in a savings of \$92,168. The eleven-year total of reduced kilowatt hours amounts to over 17 million kWh, saving the School Districts \$1,742,585 and eliminating over 24 million pounds of CO2 emissions. The water reduction initiative this year reduced consumption by 4.2 million gallons.

The winning schools in each category are as follows:

1st Place in both Energy & Water Reduction: Driftwood Middle (Broward County Public Schools)
Reduced electrical consumption by 35% & saving \$31,416
Greatest gallons of water saved by 70% & saving 1,702,606 gallons

2nd Place: Park Springs Elementary (Broward County Public Schools)
Reduced electrical consumption by 24% & saving \$11,663

3rd Place: Coconut Creek Elementary (Broward County Public Schools)
Reduced electrical consumption by 19% & saving \$4,418

School District with the Most Schools that Reduced Energy: The School District of Palm Beach County

The “How Low Can You Go?” challenge was spearheaded by BCPS physical education teacher, Linda Gancitano. Gancitano was named a White House Climate Education on Literacy “Champion of Change” for enhancing climate education at Driftwood Middle School Academy of Environmental Health and Wellness and throughout the BCPS district.

The HEAT and Kaseya Center continue to blaze a trail for best greening practices and industry firsts. In November 2014, the facility was awarded LEED Gold Recertification by the U.S. Green Building Council—the first sports and entertainment arena *in the world* to receive the prestigious honor. Kaseya Center’s green features include solar reflective roofing materials, reduced energy consumption, water efficient landscaping as well as paper and plastic bottle recycling among others. In addition, the Center has two electric car charging stations inside its P2 parking garage.

In January 2016, Kaseya Center unveiled the AT&T East Plaza, an elegant, energy efficient solar array as part of a multi-year clean energy partnership with NRG. The solar array is dotted throughout with 14 translucent solar panels, which utilize Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) solar technology allowing for the offset of energy consumption. Most of the all-weather seating on the AT&T East Plaza is environmentally sustainable having been made from both 80% recycled aluminum and 100% recycled plastic—the equivalent of 24,104 milk jugs.

Other green initiatives in which the HEAT has participated include HEAT Beach Sweep, an annual effort to help preserve South Florida’s environment and Re-HEAT, where unused food from all Miami HEAT home games is redistributed to local homeless assistance programs. Through our annual HEAT Beach Sweep, now in its 14th year, there have been a total of over 4,900 different forms of vegetation planted in our local environment. The Re-HEAT initiative, now in its 15th season, has donated more than 80,000 pounds of food to the Miami Rescue Mission, Chapman Partnership, Camillus House and Lotus House Women’s Shelter with the assistance of supporting partner Levy, the in-house caterer of the Kaseya Center.

For more information, visit HEAT.com/community.

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