

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2017

Contact:

Jeff Forbes
Senior Energy Services Representative
WPPI Energy / Eagle River Light & Water Utility
715-495-7604

***Photo:** Pictured from left: Walt Gander, Commissioner for ERLW; Jeff Forbes, Senior Energy Services Representative for WPPI Energy; Pat Weber, Utility Manager for ERLW; Dr. Michael Richie, District Administrator for NPSD; David Bohnen, Building and Grounds Director for NPSD; and Adam Snippen, Energy Advisor for Focus on Energy*

Northland Pines Schools Complete Lighting & HVAC Upgrades

Northland Pines Schools recently completed projects to upgrade the lighting in its school buildings to Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology and projects to enhance the building envelope. LED bulbs are significantly more energy efficient than fluorescent bulbs, and provide brighter, better quality light. The overall project will save the school district over 500,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year for an annual costs savings of over \$70,000. The project was contracted and installed through Upper 90 Energy of Madison, WI.

The school district received \$15,000 from Eagle River Light & Water Utility (ERLW) and WPPI Energy, and an additional \$71,521 from the state program Focus on Energy to help offset project costs.

“As a locally owned, not-for-profit public power utility, we have several programs, services and practices in place to support the community in ways that go above and beyond providing electricity,” said Pat Weber, Utility Manager at ERLW. “We’re very pleased to support the school district in this project to make area schools more energy efficient.”

District officials are pleased that the project will provide both energy and cost savings.

“Being energy efficient also helps us be budget efficient,” said Northland Pines’ District Administrator Dr. Michael Richie. “The money saved through this project can be reallocated to classes and other resources for students.”

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