

Kite and Leaf...

The good news
email from TCS!

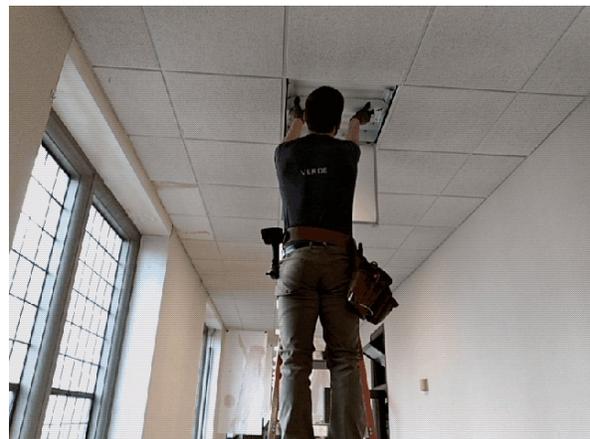
Greener Energy Saves Money for TCS Programs While Reducing our Carbon Footprint!



April is a light and bright month for The Children's School. In addition to returning to a full-day program, we've implemented two important clean energy and energy conservation strategies we'd love to share:

We Switched to LED Lights - Saving Energy and \$\$

Over Spring Break, work crews replaced old energy-hogging ballasts and fluorescent bulbs to install bright new energy-conserving LEDs in all fixtures on the first floor, outdoors, and in the gym.

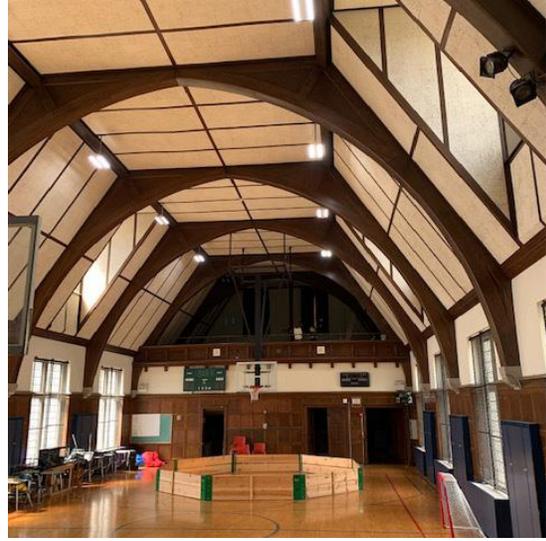




Here are some examples of the big impact making the switch to LED will have:

- 206 fixtures were updated
- We are projected to reduce our energy usage by 71%!
- Once we convert the WHOLE building, the crew projects that we will save 86,341 kWh per year. That's the carbon reduction equivalent of planting 1016 trees!
- The new gym lights now go off automatically after 30 seconds of no motion in the room, and come back on automatically when someone enters the space. They also have sensors to autodim when daylight in the room is sufficient.
- Phase 2 of our LED replacement plan will include replacing fixture on the 2nd and 3rd floors, and will hopefully be completed next year by Spring Break.
- Classroom feedback is positive! The increased brightness of the LEDs seems pleasant rather than overpowering. We're also envisioning all sorts of freeze-tag games one might play with the motion sensor gym lights.

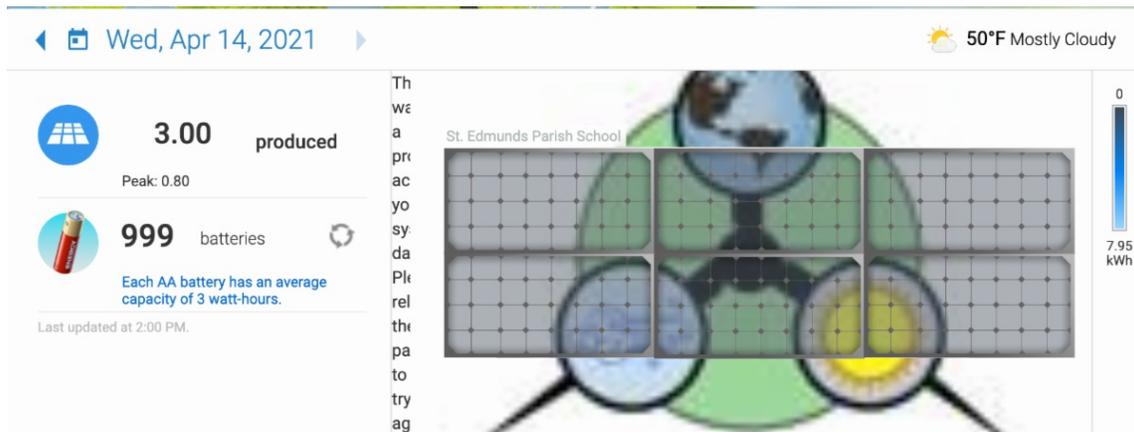
Here are photos of the Gym "before" and "after."



Watch the Sunshine Do Its Magic via Our Solar Panels

We've re-activated the 1kw solar array on the roof that is similar to the one we originally installed in our previous Berwyn facility. The panel and tech support are provided by the Illinois Solar Schools Program as an educational tool.

The best part is that students, or anyone, can watch our panel at work by viewing its energy collection in real time [online here by clicking "Show Solar Data"](#) when you get to our school's page (*it's still referred to as "St. Edmund's" in some sections*). Data can be tracked by day and time.



Illinois Solar Schools also offers workshops and classroom tools to our faculty to help them incorporate our solar collection data into studies on electricity, conservation, batteries, weather, and more. The data also makes for great math projects. We hope someone calculates the difference between the percentage of

our overall electricity use offset by solar production with the old lightbulbs, versus what it is now with the LEDs. Anyone?

These efforts join the list of initiatives already in place at TCS, including composting for lunch waste, worm bins, recycling of paper and plastics, and even rain barrels in the play area. We're always on the lookout for more ideas and equipment to keep our facility and programs "green". Please let us know if you have ideas or resources to share!

