



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dick Brown
502-564-5525

Fayette Public Schools, Sherwin-Williams Co. Receive Energy Leadership Awards

***First Lady Jane Beshear Presents Awards at Governor's Conference on
Energy and the Environment***

Lexington, Ky. (Sept. 27, 2011) – Fayette County Public Schools and the Richmond facility of the Sherwin-Williams Co. today were presented Energy Leadership Awards during the Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment at the Lexington Convention Center

Energy Leadership Awards recognize leaders in the Kentucky energy field who have made significant contributions by promoting and utilizing energy efficiency and alternative energy sources as a way to achieve their sustainability goals.

"The innovative and visionary leaders honored today have played an integral role in shaping Kentucky's energy future. Through their energy initiatives, they have demonstrated commitment to protecting the environment, conserving natural resources, and setting examples of environmental stewardship for generations to come," said First Lady Jane Beshear in presenting the awards.

Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) has become a leader in sustainability and energy efficiency initiatives. The district initiated a formal sustainability program in the fall of 2009, incorporating energy assessments, conservation, sustainable building design, environmental management and education.

The school district has documented energy cost savings of \$900,000, has been certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an ENERGY STAR partner, and earned the district's first ENERGY STAR for the Rosa Parks Elementary School. Due to its energy management and sustainability strategies, the district is achieving success with the construction of more efficient school buildings, including Wellington Elementary and Locust Trace Agri-Science Farm, both designed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) and ENERGY STAR standards.

Locust Trace is an addition to the district's career and technical education program. The working farm and veterinary clinic is designed to be a net-zero energy facility, producing as much energy as it consumes in a year through the use of photovoltaic (solar) panels. The facility also is designed to collect and use rainwater, and includes constructed wetlands for waste treatment.

"The district is to be commended for implementing energy strategies into every facet of their students' education, from building sustainable, efficient facilities to including energy and environmental education into the curriculum," said Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Len Peters.

Fayette Schools Superintendent Dr. Tom Shelton and chief operating officer Mary Wright accepted the award on behalf of the school district.

The other award recipient was Richmond plant of the Sherwin-Williams Co. The company is nationally recognized for its commitment to sustainability. The results of grassroots efforts are producing not only meaningful energy savings for its facility but the company's commitment to energy efficiency are being expanded corporate-wide.

In 2009, Sherwin-Williams signed the "Save Energy Now" LEADER Pledge through the United States Department of Energy and in 2010, signed the Kentucky Save Energy Now initiative, administered by University of Louisville's Pollution Prevention Center. With this pledge Sherwin-Williams committed to reducing energy use at its facility by 2.5 percent per year for 10 years. In the first year, Sherwin-Williams reduced its energy intensity by 26 percent, and have reduced its energy consumption by more than 30 percent since 2006.

Describing Sherwin-Williams' commitment to sustainability, Gary Satler, manager of engineering, maintenance and safety said, "Our site has made energy reduction a critical component of our continuous improvement mindset. The projects completed over the past several years have had a positive impact on site expenses while improving morale, work atmosphere and the appearance of the site."

Satler, along with human resources manager Amanda Baker and engineering support coordinator James Davis, accepted the award on behalf of Sherwin-Williams.

###