



**AirCare PLUS<sup>®</sup>**

## Milpitas Unified School District Pairs with AirCare Plus to Cut Energy Costs and Put Money Back into the Classrooms

Nestled in California's Silicon Valley, Milpitas Unified School District serves over 10,000 K-12 public school students in 13 schools. To conserve energy and stretch a tight budget, the District has implemented several energy-generating and energy-efficiency projects. For example, seventy-five percent of the District's energy need is produced by rooftop solar arrays installed on the school buildings, efficient lighting saves on electricity costs, and an energy management system allows the maintenance team to monitor and control the performance of building equipment. With an eye to continuously improving operational performance for maximum energy efficiency, the District teamed up with the AirCare Plus Program. This partnership is estimated to save the District approximately \$170,830 in electricity costs per year, money that will go directly back into the District's general fund for education.

### AirCare Plus Creates Energy Savings

AirCare Plus works to improve the efficiency of HVAC (Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning) units for Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) small to medium-sized commercial electric customers. Over a six month period, AirCare Plus performed no-cost tune-ups of 502 HVAC unit components at the District's 13 schools, adjusting them for optimal performance and efficiency.

For the school district, AirCare Plus delivers:

- › Identification of inherent problems in overall maintenance plan
- › Improved HVAC system performance
- › Significant energy savings
- › Increased comfort for building occupants



### Quick Facts

**School:**

Milpitas Unified School District

**Location:** Milpitas, California

**Scope of energy-saving measures:**

502 HVAC units diagnosed and serviced for increased efficiency through measures relating to refrigerant, thermostat controls and economizer optimization

**Estimated Annual Savings\***

- › 1,138,866 kWh
- › 206 kW
- › 48,210 Therms
- › Approximately \$170,830 saved per year

**Program Benefits**

- › No-cost HVAC tune-up
- › Reduced energy costs
- › Increased equipment performance and longevity
- › More funds for education

*\* Estimated annual cost savings based on a utility rate of \$0.15 per kWh.*



John Cimino, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation for the District, explains the benefits of the AirCare Plus program. "Our PG&E rep told us about the program and we liked the fact that it was a proactive approach to continuously improve the performance of our facilities. The results are big and easy to see, and all savings go back into our district's general fund for education."



Each of the District's HVAC units was inspected and serviced to improve performance. Nearly all (98 percent) of the units required either installation or replacement of a programmable thermostat, or modification of thermostat settings. Installed at no cost to the District, the programmable thermostats ensure proper settings based on the occupancy schedule to maintain occupant



comfort, and guarantee the units are running only when needed. Eighty-nine percent of the serviced units received refrigerant charge adjustments to extend the life of the compressors and reduce energy consumption. Sixty-five percent of the units also received adjustments to the economizer, allowing

for more "free cooling" with outside air, and therefore additional energy savings.

"AirCare Plus is a great program and we're grateful to be involved," says Cimino. "All savings created by AirCare Plus go back into the District's general fund, so not only are we saving money but we're putting money back into the classrooms."

#### About AirCare Plus

AirCare Plus is a comprehensive program designed to optimize the performance of all major energy-using components of commercial HVAC units. The program is administered by PECE, and serves as an adaptable utility offering that can be applied throughout the United States.

For more information, please visit [www.aircare-plus.com](http://www.aircare-plus.com).



This program is funded by California utility customers and administered by PG&E under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

"PG&E" refers to "Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation."

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