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Haltom High School Improvements Reduce HVAC Energy Use by 20 Percent and Maintenance Costs by 76 Percent

Trane to present district leaders with "Energy Efficiency Leader Award"

Haltom City, Texas, Aug. 1, 2011 – Infrastructure improvements completed at Haltom High School in Birdville Independent School District (BISD) have reduced heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) energy use by 20 percent and maintenance expenses by 76 percent while improving the environment of learning and increasing energy and operational efficiency and sustainability.

The reduced energy costs at Haltom High School reflect a 40 percent reduction in HVAC energy use. HVAC typically represents 50 percent of a building's overall energy consumption.

Increased efficiency and sustainability benefit schools in a variety of ways. A report released in May by the American Institute of Architects and the U.S. Green Building Council concluded that "green schools" are better for students, teachers, the environment—and the bottom line. The improvements at Haltom High School represent a key step in the high school's progress toward creating a high performance building.

High performance buildings take a whole-building approach to performance while creating spaces that are comfortable, safe, healthy and efficient. They meet specific standards for energy and water consumption, environmental compliance, occupant comfort, system reliability and uptime, and other factors. The standards are set to deliver established outcomes that help building owners and occupants achieve their core missions.

The district also has other schools on the journey to creating high performance buildings that utilize geothermal ground source heat pumps. These renewable energy systems tap into the earth's stored heat sink for heating and cooling the building.

In recognition of Haltom High School's commitment to improving building performance and sustainability, Trane, a leading global provider of indoor comfort systems and services and a brand of Ingersoll Rand, is presenting the school with its "Energy Efficiency Leader Award."

Details of the award presentation:

- Haltom High School will be recognized at an award presentation that will take place on Aug. 2 at 2 p.m. in the Omni Room at Haltom High School, 5501 Haltom Road, Haltom City, Texas.
- Felix Wilson, vice president of the western United States for Trane, and Bill Harris, vice president of the education segment for Trane, will present the award to Bill Barrow, systems administrator for BISD.

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Haltom High School Improvements - 2

“In addition to significant energy savings, the infrastructure improvements have greatly improved comfort throughout Haltom High School,” said Barrow. “Since research has shown that students who are more comfortable learn better, these upgrades help us more effectively achieve our most important goal—educating our students.”

Administrators Select Customized Solutions

To increase energy efficiency at the high school, district leaders decided to upgrade two chillers that had served the district for nearly two decades. They selected a chilled water system solution employing a design philosophy that reduced initial outlay, lowers operating costs and is substantially quieter than traditional HVAC systems. Key elements of the selected system design are low flow rate, low temperature and high efficiency of both the airside and the waterside systems, along with optimized control algorithms for sustainable performance.

The selected solution features variable speed pumping to slow the chilled water flow rate as it produces chilled water at temperatures colder than traditional systems and, as a result, requires significantly less pumping energy. Similarly, fan power requirements are reduced by supplying less airflow at colder temperatures. Reduced relative humidity in the building and quieter system operation also contribute to improved indoor air quality.

One of the new chillers includes a “free cooling” vapor cycle option which allows the chiller to produce chilled water on cooler days without operating the compressor motor. This mode has been the best choice for a significant portion of total operating hours. The school has also added a building automation system to keep the system operating at peak performance.

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About Haltom High School and Birdville Independent School District

Haltom High School is one of three high schools in the Birdville Independent School District (BISD) and serves 2,501 students in grades nine through 12. Birdville ISD’s 33 campuses proudly serve the following cities in Texas: Richland Hills and parts of Colleyville, Fort Worth, Haltom City, Hurst, North Richland Hills and Watauga.

About Ingersoll Rand

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