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**Sycamore Community Schools Launches Infrastructure
Improvements Expected to Reduce Energy Costs**

Cincinnati, Ohio, May 12, 2011 – This week, leaders from Sycamore Community Schools will formally launch infrastructure improvements at six of the seven district’s schools to improve the learning and teaching environment, reduce maintenance and utility costs, upgrade outdated systems and improve lighting.

The upgrades, initiated in March, are expected to generate approximately \$300,000 in utility rebates and save approximately \$840,000 in annual energy costs, which will be used to repay debt on the improvements. The upgrades are also expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to removing 1,300 cars from the road.

The improvements, which are being undertaken at Sycamore Junior High and Sycamore High School, Edwin H. Greene Intermediate and three elementary schools: Blue Ash, Symmes and Montgomery, are scheduled for completion by the end of 2011.

Energy efficient and environmentally-friendly projects will also be incorporated into the new Maple Dale Elementary School and district offices as both buildings are constructed.

Sycamore Community Schools, a suburban Cincinnati district serving the communities of Blue Ash and Montgomery as well as the townships of Sycamore and Symmes, will fund the improvements through energy and operations savings.

Ceremony and Reception to Launch the Improvements

A ceremony will be held to formally launch these improvements on **Thursday, May 12 at 1 p.m. at Symmes Elementary School, 11820 Enyart Road.**

Attendees from Sycamore Community Schools will include: Adrienne C. James, Ed.D., superintendent; Keith Kelly, Ph.D., assistant superintendent of human resources and business operation; Beth Weber, treasurer; and Diane Adamec, Sycamore Board of Education president.

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Also in attendance will be executives from Trane, a leading global provider of indoor comfort systems and services and a brand of Ingersoll Rand, with which the district is collaborating on the improvements. Representatives from Trane will include Bill Harris, vice president, education markets; and account managers Jim Zavesky and Bob Haun.

“These improvements are critical to creating the best learning environment for the students – and at the end of the day, educating our students is the most important thing we do,” said Kelly. “It’s even better that these improvements include financial and environmental benefits that will further benefit the district.”

The upgrades are approved through Ohio’s House Bill 264 program which allows the district to finance energy savings improvements.

District Selects Customized Energy Conservation Measures

Prior to selecting energy conservation measures, building audits were conducted to identify various energy conservation measures and their benefits. Building information modeling software was also used to evaluate various energy conservation measures and their benefits.

Potential systems were evaluated to pinpoint the best choices (on life-cycle not simply first cost). Selections include controls upgrades to enhance the new high efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems at the six schools. The HVAC systems will feature variable speed pumping and airflow in order to reduce electrical consumption on pumps and fans based on the needs in the building.

The systems will also improve air quality and energy consumption by monitoring and controlling the amount and quality of outdoor air drawn into the buildings. They will condition spaces based upon time of day and were integrated with classroom occupancy to further optimize energy use.

Upgrades also include plumbing, vending machine controls to turn off the lights and reduce cooling during off hours, high efficiency interior and exterior lighting and automatic shutdown of personal computers when not in use.

The improvements also include adding thermal storage systems at three elementary schools: Blue Ash, Montgomery and Symmes. Thermal storage solutions, also known as ice storage systems, create ice at night when electricity rates are lower. The ice is then used to cool buildings during higher daytime demand periods when electricity is more expensive.

A solar thermal solution at the high school will use heat generated by the sun to warm swimming pool water. The district will also reduce water consumption through the use of low-flow devices in sinks and toilets. Skylights will also be replaced at the high school to substitute daylight for some of the electric light.

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