

News from ORONO SCHOOLS



ORONO'S TECHNOLOGY NEEDS



YOUR LEVY DOLLARS AT WORK

Systems & Software



The technology levy pays for software and cloud-based subscriptions that support and accelerate student learning at school or home, provide security for campus buildings, ensure student data privacy, block inappropriate content, and manage business operations.

14.0% of annual technology budget

Equipment



Levy dollars pay for student, teacher, and staff devices required for teaching, learning, and district operations. Devices are replaced, maintained, and repaired to ensure uninterrupted service, stay current with software releases, and avoid obsolescence.

21.4% of annual technology budget



Infrastructure

Infrastructure is the technology platform (WiFi, switches, fiber, firewall) upon which our devices, applications, and services depend. Replacement of core technology infrastructure is at a critical juncture, required to meet district demands and avoid downtime.

21.7% of annual technology budget



Support Staff

Orono's technology team members have unique expertise in network and systems management, support, and staff development. They keep systems running and manage thousands of devices. Instructional Coaches lead staff training in effective use of technology.

39.8% of annual technology budget



PER-PUPIL SPENDING LAGS NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	ANNUAL	
	TOTAL LEVY	PER PUPIL
Hopkins	\$10,553,614	\$1,416
Eden Prairie	\$6,926,600	\$727
Bloomington	\$7,593,248	\$672
Edina	\$6,109,846	\$668
Wayzata	\$7,486,812	\$539
Minnnetonka	\$6,361,265	\$526
Westonka	\$1,432,175	\$519
Orono	\$1,039,860	\$325

*2020 figures based on a home with estimated market value of \$500,000

Technology levy website provides budget, 10-year plan, and tax impact

ON THE BALLOT THIS NOVEMBER

Orono Schools is grateful for the community support and technology levy dollars approved by voters in 2011. Because this levy is set to expire in 2021, the School Board has approved a question for the November ballot, asking voters to replace the current technology levy with a new levy for the next 10 years. The tax impact on a \$500,000 home is an additional \$7.84 per month.

The district must rely on voters to fund this critical need because Minnesota does not provide districts with categorical aid for technology. The budget, 10-year plan, and tax impact calculator are on the referendum website today:

www.oronotech.com

Technology funding for the next 10 years on the ballot this November • Details at oronotech.com

Orono Schools' solar program: prudent fiscal and environmental steps for the long term

Commitment to renewable, solar energy has been part of Orono Schools' expense-management plan for years, beginning with investment in community solar gardens that provide cost-saving energy credits. By taking it one step further and installing solar arrays on district-owned buildings—requiring no financial investment of district dollars—Orono Schools is seeing an important energy impact now, with significant fiscal benefits expected well into the future.

Thoughtful design. The district researched and evaluated several bids before choosing a solar array design that essentially floats on the rooftop, held down by ballasts. The non-invasive mounting system protects the roof and the district's roofing warranties—two important facility-maintenance considerations.

Immediate payoff. The decision to add solar arrays to district buildings was straightforward, requiring no initial financial investment of district dollars. And by signing contracts in 2019, the district was able to take advantage of the maximum 30% federal tax credit on solar installations.

Four of the six arrays came online in December 2019, providing an immediate payoff. Now, during peak summer months, 25% of the power to cool buildings is drawing off district solar versus entirely off Xcel Energy services. The remaining 75% of

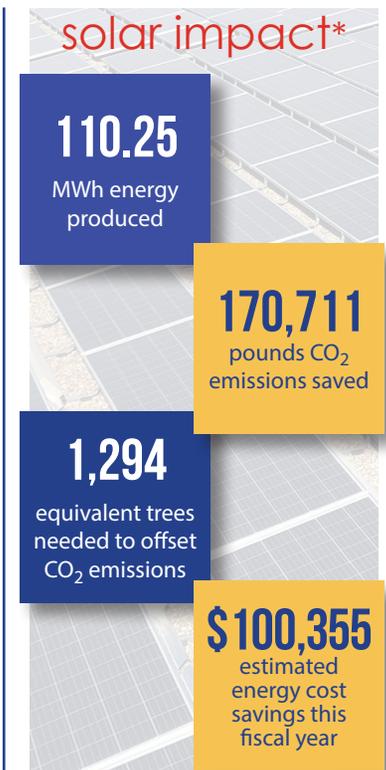
production is applied as energy credits toward the cost of the solar installation.

Bottom-line impact. In fewer than 20 years, the energy credits will completely fund the cost of all arrays. Then, energy dollars will be applied directly to the district's bottom line budget to cover other operational expenses. This forward-looking approach impacts financial security today *and* tomorrow.

Environmental impact. Through a cloud-based dashboard, the district can monitor total power produced, the amount of carbon dioxide offset by clean solar energy and the equivalent number of trees that would need to be planted to offset the same amount of CO₂ emissions.

Solar and STEM. With its focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, the district is excited to bring enhanced solar energy curriculum to campus. Students will be able to learn about solar energy and see the impact a school district can have on environmental stewardship.

This is only one example of how Orono Schools looks for creative ways to manage operational costs and keep taxpayer dollars directed to classroom instruction and deep learning experiences for students.



*since December 2019



Solar panels on the Orono Transportation Center can generate more than 200 kWh of energy per day on a nice summer day.



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