

GreenTech Lights up New Jersey Catholic Schools

In July 2012, the New Jersey Clean Energy Program provided incentives to the state's private and public K-12 schools for replacing T-12 fluorescent lights with new T-8 energy-efficient lighting. The incentives covered up to the entire cost of the upgrades, including materials, labor, permitting and disposal of the T-12 fixtures. A total of \$6 million was allocated for this initiative, available to participants on a first-come, first-served basis. GreenTech Energy Services filed applications on behalf of many schools throughout the state. Among those that were accepted into the program were several dozen schools from the Trenton and Camden Catholic Dioceses.



At **St. Catherine's in Spring Lake**, the difference between the old and new lights was "literally like night and day," according to Rich Myer, the Parish's Manager of Buildings and Grounds. "The old fixtures were unsightly, with cracked and yellowing lenses," he says. "The new ones make everything look brighter. As one of the children put it, 'I can see now!' This is an upgrade that we've wanted to do for a long time, so the funding from the state was a real gift."

The school's principal, Sister Margo Kavanaugh, saw a similar reaction among the parents and teachers. "The first time people walked into the school after the project was completed, they asked what was going on here, because the whole place looked so much brighter and cleaner," she says. "Our teachers go out of their way to create cheerful environments in their classrooms, and the new lighting has really enhanced their efforts."



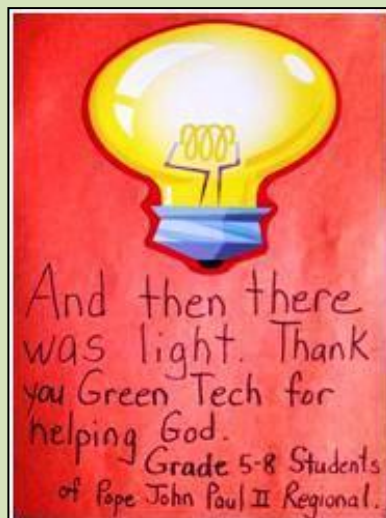
St. Catherine's - Before and After

Reaction was also positive at **Our Lady of Mercy in Newfield**, where obsolescent technology was replaced in classrooms, faculty rooms, administrative offices, the gym, kitchen and pool area (see before and after shots below). “The lights are now bright white instead of dingy yellow and there are no more shadows – you can see everything in every classroom,” reports the school’s principal, Sister Grace Marie. “And the faculty room and offices look like brand new rooms. It’s amazing.”



Our Lady of Mercy - Before and After

According to Donna Davidson, Associate Director of the Trenton Diocese’s Department of Catholic Schools, the lighting project at **Pope John Paul II** was also well received. “The Principal was thrilled with the difference the new lighting was making,” she says, “and they loved the installation guys!!!” In fact, the students sent the installers on their way with handmade thank-you cards and a bagful of snacks. GreenTech is proudly displaying the card (below) in its corporate offices and the installers are enjoying their Cheetos.



The overall appearance of **John Paul II in Stratford's** has also been significantly enhanced by the lighting upgrade, according to principal Helen Persing. "From students to staff to visitors, not a person coming in here hasn't been amazed at the difference," she reports. "We are very thankful and grateful that we were able to do this."



John Paul II – Before and After

Teachers and administrators at **First Baptist Christian School in Hackensack** were also very pleased with their new lights, according to Peter Brown, head of maintenance "But beyond that, we were very impressed with the crew," he adds. "They were neat and clean, and careful to work around our schedule. We had prepared the teachers for the project by telling them that contractors would be coming in and ripping out the old lights and installing new, so they were braced for the worst. But when the teachers came in the morning after the installation, all they saw were the new lights – no mess. They just went into their rooms and started teaching."

The staff at **Good Shepherd Regional Catholic School in Collingswood** told a similar story. "The men were very professional, arriving on time, and performing their work without interruption to our school," says head custodian Don Bowker. "They went out of their way to adjust their plans to any special schedules on our part and when we arrived at school in the morning, other than the new lighting, you would never know they were here. In sum, the GreenTech team and its work should be considered outstanding."



Our Lady of Hope in Blackwood – Before and After

Cafeteria at Saint Paul School in Burlington – Before and After



Principal William Robbins reports that the new lighting at **St. Paul in Burlington** has changed the look of the whole building. “We have one hallway that used to look like a cave,” he says. “Now that we can actually see the walls, we realize how much they’ve yellowed over the years, and how badly in need of a new paint job they are!” The lights have significantly changed the look of his own office, he adds. “Teachers have been kidding me when they walk into my office and say they need some sunscreen. It’s wonderful – changes your whole attitude.”

