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Stafford County School Earns LEED Certification and Three Schools Earn Energy Star Ratings

As part of the Stafford County Public Schools’ Energy Management and Sustainability programs, the division adopted the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) sustainability standards for new school construction and major renovations.

LEED is a certification program for buildings and communities that guide the design, construction, and operations and maintenance of facilities toward sustainability. It is based on prerequisites and credits that a project earns in order to achieve a certification level of Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

The Grafton Village Elementary School (GVES) Renovation Project is the first major Stafford County School capital project to earn LEED certification. The GVES Renovation project achieved a “Certified” certification only 3 points shy of the Silver certification. Key accomplishments achieved by the project include:

- Water use efficiencies/reductions
- Optimizing energy performance
- Construction waste management/recycling
- Improved Indoor Environmental Quality
- Innovation in design

Achieving this significant milestone is a result of the support of the Stafford County School Board and the Stafford County Board of Supervisors, along with the superior design from architect Hord, Coplan and Macht, and the exceptional construction management from contractor Loughridge Construction. Key leadership provided by GVES Principal Mike Sidebotham and SCPS project managers Tom Henry and James McKeithan ensured this certification.
L-R: Falmouth District School Board Member, Scott Hirons, Grafton Village Elementary School Principal, Michael Sidebotham, Project Manager, Tom Henry and George Washington District School Board Member, Dewayne McOsker, celebrate the LEED Certification for Grafton Village Elementary School.

In addition to the LEED certification for Grafton Village Elementary School, the Stafford School Division is proud to announce that three of our schools have received the EPA’s Energy Star. Anthony Burns Elementary School obtained a score of 79 on the EPA’s Energy Star rating scale. Widewater Elementary School received an 84 and Falmouth Elementary School obtained a score of 81 on the EPA’s Energy Star rating scale. Under the supervision of Principals Nancy Coll, Kristen McKinney-Nash and Sallie Johnakin-Putnam, the staff, students and a centrally located maintenance team have reduced the energy consumption throughout these facilities.

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