



At the June 27th High Bridge Board of Education meeting Mr. Ron Marinelli, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds did a presentation regarding energy use reduction and cost savings for the district. From March to June 2016 High Bridge reduced its electricity usage by 554 hours of operation. That number equates to the buildings being unplugged for 2/3 of a month. This reduction reduced the district's carbon footprint 181,219 lbs./CO₂ which

equates to 9.06 cars off the road. High Bridge Schools has two buildings which houses 432 students grades Pre-K-8. The cost savings for just the district's two buildings for 10 months was \$19,555.09. High Bridge School District has had an overall operation reduction of 30%.

Mr. Marinelli has brought his wealth of knowledge and expertise to High Bridge. He was named Energy Manager of the Year in 2014 by the Association of Energy Engineers, client of the month by North America Power Partners, created various energy training programs and materials for school districts, writes Q & A articles for *Building Magazine*, has presented at 5 Globalcons on Energy Efficiency and has saved 470 tons of CO₂ which equals the removal of 80 cars off the road. Mr. Marinelli will be speaking at the New Jersey School Boards Convention in Atlantic City in October 2016 where he will be doing a presentation on Energy Management using Demand Response.

The High Bridge School District is doing it's part in going Green. Along with Mr. Marinelli's efforts, the district is using environmentally friendly cleaning products and practices, is striving to be more paperless by using their website and an automated phone, email and text system to keep parents informed and using Genesis for grades and other student information. The district also has a vegetable garden and will be composting cafeteria trash to reduce it's trash output and has an outdoor classroom. Additionally the goal this year for Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hobaugh is to achieve a bronze status for Sustainable Jersey. This is a New Jersey nonprofit organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue sustainability programs. High Bridge schools is showing that small districts can do big things.