Edison High School: Environmental Proposal I

Evan Keeton

It has come to my attention that Edison High is not the most environmental friendly of institutions. One simple solution to this issue is the inclusion of solar energy in the building's energy sources. In the short term, this is expected to be an investment: According to news.energysage.com, a 10kW installation in New Jersey is at most $32,000, or about $3,000 per kW. However, this cost will more than pay for itself in many ways. Obviously, a solar array reduces, if not nullifies the cost of powering a building; with the size of Edison High School, this alone likely accounts for hundreds of dollars a year. Additionally, if sufficient energy is produced—more energy than Edison High School can use itself—the excess energy can be sold to energy companies, further reducing the cost of solar energy for the school. Lastly tax benefits are offered in the state of New Jersey to encourage the switch to solar power. According to costofsolar.com, the average per capita rate of return on solar energy in New Jersey is 11%, meaning that in 9-10 years, Edison High's investment will have been completely payed off, confirmed by a statement on momentumsolar.com. Momentum Solar also states that solar panels have a lifespan of 40 years, meaning that Edison High School will have 30 years of reduced or free energy that may even provide a source of income for the school, providing an overall financial benefit. Also, solar energy is great for the environmental conscience, as every kW replaced with solar energy is a kW less of fossil fuels pulled from the ground, transported, and burned, all of which are environmentally detrimental activities. In the end, solar energy is an easy way for Edison High School to become eco-friendlier, as many companies, such as the aforementioned Momentum Solar specialize in solar panel installation and the most likely requirements will simply be finding the best contractor and purchasing the installation.

Edison High School: Environmental Proposal I

Evan Keeton

It has come to my attention that Edison High is not the most environmental friendly of institutions. One remedy to this issue is the installation of waterless urinals in the male bathrooms. This would require the hiring of a contractor to complete, but according to falconwaterfree.com could save the school nearly $7,500 a year, conservatively speaking. Environmentally, though an installation would be required to implement this solution, the benefit for the environment would greatly outweigh the potential installation cost. Most urinals use one gallon of water per flush; some older models use even more—up to three gallons per flush. In a large institution, with nearly 1,000 male students (and additional male staff), waterless urinals can be expected to be used many times every day, saving many gallons every day—thousands of gallons of water saved every year. The only potential concern is odor of waterless urinals, but both http://www.waterlessurinals.co.uk/ and Falcon WaterFree have claimed that waterless urinals are no more responsible for odor than any other improperly installed urinals, suggesting that this potential concern should be considered only minor. In the short term, installation timing could be a challenge, but could perhaps occur during the summer, but would immediately begin saving the school on water, thousands of dollars every year. In the long term, the school would be greatly benefited financially and environmentally. In fact, waterless urinals, thought about by few, can provide a substantial benefit in LEED© rating, proving how important the switch can be.