

Schools look to save money, help environment

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After a little figuring, Henry Clay High School officials concluded recently that they could save about \$2,000 a year on electricity - and still meet state lighting requirements - by following a consulting firm's suggestion to simply unscrew one fluorescent bulb in each lighting unit in many school hallways. "We could be putting money back into the education general fund, basically by doing nothing," said Associate Principal Lester Dias. Henry Clay also is considering other steps, such as unplugging all unneeded electrical devices over summer break, shutting down the school's 800 or so computers at 6 p.m. instead of 7 p.m. each school day, reducing heating and cooling settings, and turning off all unneeded corridor lights in the evenings. The ideas were offered by CMTA, a consulting firm hired by the school district to conduct an "energy audit" at Henry Clay. It's all part of Fayette County Public Schools' new sustainability initiative to promote more efficient energy use, make the district's schools more environmentally friendly and integrate sustainability with school curriculums. Henry Clay and Rosa Parks Elementary School have been designated pilot schools for the effort, and both are working on energy-saving ideas developed with consultants' help. Several other Fayette schools also are getting energy audits to identify ways they can save. The project, still in the planning stages, will shift into high gear after schools reopen Aug. 11.

Courtesy of: Bluegrass Greenworks