



## SOLAR, EFFICIENCY PROJECTS POWER CONROE SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

Just north of Houston, the Conroe Independent School District (ISD) houses 64 campuses with over 65,000 students and 8,000 staff. Ranked as the 11<sup>th</sup> largest district in the state, Conroe boasts the unique title as Texas' most sustainable school district. In 2019, Conroe ISD partnered with Leaf Engineers and PBK Architects to embark on [a sustainability project](#) aimed at providing affordable on-site renewable energy across the entire, 348-mile school district. The program's first solar energy project was installed at Stockton Junior High School with a 1-megawatt (MW) ground-mounted array connected to the grid with net metering through their utility Entergy. When the school produces more solar energy than it uses, the excess is sent to the grid to meet other customer demand, and the school system pays only for net energy used..

### BY THE NUMBERS

- **64** schools
- **65,000** students
- **\$7.9M** total 25-year savings

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

*Students at Stockton Junior High School participate in an energy education program that incorporates on-site learning about the campus' solar array, seamlessly integrating students into their learning environment. Parents and teachers are also able to learn about the benefits of solar and how it saves the school district money.*

Conroe ISD is the direct beneficiary of the project's savings, with actual quarterly savings of \$37,174 or 63% from August to October of 2020. Along with [efficiency improvements](#)—like adjusting the cooling temperature in server rooms and increasing the number of unused buildings in the summer, overall consumption in Q3 2020 was 65% lower and peak demand was 51% lower. Project engineers also calculated a triple bottom line analysis of the project's financial, social, and environmental impact. In total, the district reaps \$2.5 million in air pollution impact savings and \$1.6 million in carbon emissions savings. The renewable energy production for Conroe ISD totals \$3.7 million with a staggering \$7.9 million in expected cumulative 25-year savings.

## SUPPORT MORE PROJECTS LIKE THESE

Funding energy efficiency improvements in schools through the State Energy Program, making the investment tax credit (ITC) for solar refundable, and providing support for resilience and deployment of distributed energy resources can bring more projects like this to Texas.