

Energy Options Trim School Operating Costs



In a move to significantly increase energy efficiency, Fairfax County, Virginia relied on Buchart Horn to replace a number of smaller air conditioning units with two centralized 650-ton water-cooled chillers at the W. T. Woodson High School. The project lowers operating costs by harvesting free cooling in winter from a waterside economizer that uses the cold water in the cooling tower rather than running the chiller to cool water. The new chillers are surrounded with a masonry wall that deflects all noise upward and away from the classrooms.

The chiller project was part of major renovations to the 302,000-sq. ft. high school and 40,000 sq. ft. of additions. The Firm provided mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering services, on the \$52,500,000 school project which will accommodate 2,000 students.



Buchart Horn also integrated the use of energy saving green technologies such as high efficiency lighting systems, data and communications improvements, and low consumption plumbing fixtures.