



ENERGY STAR Challenge

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Schmidt Consulting Group would like to wish you Happy Holidays!

SCG is now an ENERGY STAR Partner:

Schmidt Consulting Group, Inc. has made a fundamental commitment to protect the environment by becoming an ENERGY STAR Partner. SCG's voluntary partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR program means that we will be working toward improved energy efficiency and performance of the facilities that we design.

ENERGY STAR is the national symbol for energy efficiency recognized by more than 70 percent of Americans. The ENERGY STAR symbol is displayed on qualified energy-efficient products, appliances, homes, buildings, and building design projects. The ENERGY STAR program was established as a simple indicator of energy efficiency. Buildings that are designed to earn the ENERGY STAR save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and have the potential to deliver the long-term benefits of performance and a sustainable, positive impact on the environment.

The ENERGY STAR guidelines are a strategic management approach to incorporate energy performance in the building design process. The guidelines are a set of suggested actions for design professionals and building owners to establish and achieve energy goals. These guidelines encourage best practices for energy design as part of the overall design process, and can help translate design intent to top energy performing buildings. The approach begins in the earliest phases of the project from the selection of the design team through design, construction, commissioning and operation of the completed facility.

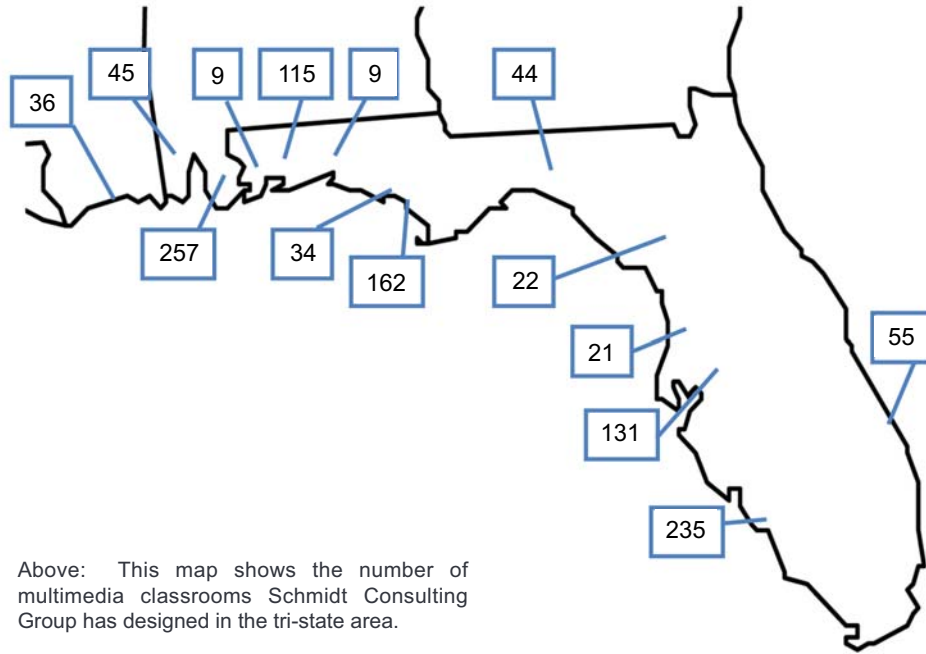


One Thousand Classrooms and counting...

Multimedia Systems: With the completion of the design of the new Saraland High School in Saraland, Alabama, Schmidt Consulting Group has designed more than one thousand multimedia classrooms. This does not only include schools with data connections for student and teachers, but true multimedia systems with equipment such as:

- Video projectors and flat panel displays,
- Interactive whiteboards,
- Sound enhancement systems,
- Interactive response systems,
- Document cameras,
- Videoconferencing/distance learning systems, and
- Touch panel control systems.

The rooms we have designed vary from basic overhead projector systems to multi- image displays with integrated distance learning systems and elaborate control systems, all using a combination of the above components.



Above: This map shows the number of multimedia classrooms Schmidt Consulting Group has designed in the tri-state area.

Audio/Video Technologies in the Classroom:

Audio/Video Technologies have made an incredible impact on instructional retention in the classroom. These new systems have the ability to catch and retain the attention of students, as well as spark their imaginations. A/V systems enable students to interact in the classroom environment like never before. Incorporating a technological, "visual" basis for learning within a student's typical "oral" curriculum is essential to their educational growth potential and for student's adaptation in their real world practice.

SCG's Communications Department has designed classroom technology systems for numerous K-12 and higher education projects, both new and old. By integrating the design of these systems into the architectural aspects of the room, the systems are most effectively utilized.

"Projects managed by SCG prove to require little attention from my staff as SCG ensures we receive what was specified regardless of the amount of time and effort required by them. It is with complete confidence in both their technical acumen and management skills that I recommend Schmidt Consulting Group, Inc. for any communications system needs." - Derek S. Roh, Director of IT Services, Baldwin County Public Schools



A few of the most influential Audio/Video systems in classrooms include:

Interactive Whiteboards: Interactive Whiteboards, known sometimes by the trade names of Smartboards or Promethean Boards, allow teachers and students alike to really bring lessons to life. Interactive whiteboards affect learning in several ways, including raising the level of student engagement in a classroom, motivating students and promoting enthusiasm for learning. Teachers can deliver the inspirational and engaging lessons they really want their pupils to experience. Students can share their abilities with the whole class.

Audio Enhancement in the Classroom: Audio Enhancement Systems can truly enrich the learning environment. With these systems, the instructor wears a wireless device that allows him or her to move freely about the room as he or she teaches. The Instructor has the ability to hand off the microphone to students in order for them to participate in the lesson. The use of this type of technology is extremely beneficial for soft-spoken students.

Great American Teach-In



Second graders get a lesson in Engineering: For the week of November 17th, Hillsborough County Public Schools recognizes American Education Week by having the Great American Teach-In, a program in which parents are encouraged to enter the classroom to teach students about their profession. The intent of the program is to stress the importance of staying in school.

Our own Heather Callaway was encouraged by her daughter Haley to sign up as a speaker. On November 18th, Heather headed to Walden Lake Elementary School to visit Mrs. Huddy's second grade class. Heather began her Telecommunications presentation with a snack, to gain "cool points". Heather gave an overview of our company and her responsibilities within the firm. A parallel was drawn between Heather's career responsibilities and the children's responsibilities as students.

The class was very responsive and had a lot of interesting questions. Heather brought a set of drawings and some cables and connectors that the children passed around. She also brought a copy of a classroom floor plan for each student, and together, Heather and the children located various low voltage symbols. Most of the kids were looking around their own classroom and relating what they saw to the floor plan in front of them. After the presentation, Heather asked Haley what she thought. Her response was "it was fantastic, the brownie was awesome, and I liked how you involved everyone."

It's getting greener all the time:

Four more LEED A.P.s on staff: SCG is pleased to announce that Joe Jones, P.E., M.B.A., Andy Maurin, P.E., and Rob Howard, E.I. have achieved LEED Accreditation. Their efforts are part of a company-wide initiative to have all SCG design professionals accredited by the United States Green Building Council. Mindy Day, who recently joined SCG, is also a LEED A.P.. Her arrival brings our staff total to nine.

Regarding his LEED Accreditation, Andy Maurin, P.E. had this to say: "We have always implemented LEED design principles in our projects. Unfortunately, we do not always have the power to maintain our design parameters. I feel the LEED Certification process is an attempt to regulate our industry which has become too driven by short term economics (Value Engineering). I attained LEED Certification for the obvious business benefits but also to endorse the commitment to Sustainable Quality Design and Construction Practices."



From left: Joe Jones, P.E., M.B.A., Andy Maurin, P.E., and Rob Howard, E.I.



SCG welcomes Mindy A. Day, LEED A.P.: Mindy has joined our Pensacola Mechanical Team. She holds an Associate's Degree in Mechanical Drafting, as well as Architectural Drafting, from Central Florida Community College. Her prior experience includes the position of Mechanical Designer with Affiliated Engineers, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida.

Photo of the Month



Jeff and Tara tie the knot: On November 8th our own Jeff McCarthy married his love of eight years, Tara Bagwell. The ceremony was held at the Scenic Hills Country Club in Pensacola, Florida.

The ceremony was touching and fun. Jeff enthusiastically accepted his bride from her father, commemorating the moment with a high-five. The reception was also full of surprises - especially for Tara who confessed that she hadn't seen her wedding cake until that moment. (Her mother had generously planned the reception).

The cake's appearance may have been a surprise to the bride, however the manner in which Jeff fed it to her was not. Jeff "Jumbo Slice" McCarthy, the winner of the SCG Arm Wrestling Contest, "delicately" shoved a piece of cake into his Tara's mouth. Tara returned the favor with the same amount of vigor. (Let's just say both needed a towel at the end of it all).

It was a special day for two special people.

About Us: Schmidt Consulting Group, Inc. was established in 1987 to provide Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, Communications, and Structural design services to a very diverse client base.

Headquartered in Pensacola, Florida, SCG currently employs branch offices in St. Petersburg, Florida and Daphne, Alabama to serve our clients more effectively and efficiently.

Our range of consulting services includes planning, design, the production of construction documents, supervision of public bidding, contract administration, and supervision and inspection during construction.

Our reputation for quality, responsiveness, and timeliness has been demonstrated through successful projects for many private, federal, state, and local entities.

Schmidt Consulting Group, Inc. has provided specialized design solutions for a variety of facility types including: Airports, Auditoriums, Broadcast Studios, Churches, Colleges and Universities, Correctional Facilities, Data Centers, K-12 Schools, Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities, Industrial Complexes, Laboratories, Libraries, Military Facilities, Multi-Family Residential Units, Municipal Facilities, Museums and Performing Art Centers, Office Buildings, Recreational Facilities, Sport Complexes, and Wastewater Treatment Plants.



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