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Title: BOARD DECIDES TO USE ENERGY-SAVING LIGHTS
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Over the next three years, the school system will team up with an energy services corporation and Connecticut Light & Power in hopes of saving \$700,000 in electricity costs over the next decade.

On Monday, the board of education voted unanimously to spend \$198,283 over the next three years on the energy-efficient light bulbs and motion-activated hardware. Crews from Middletown-based Nxegen will replace outdated lighting at seven of the eight schools over the next few months. The work will be done when students aren't in school and is expected to be completed by Jan. 1.

``Clearly for both financial reasons and for the environment, anything we can do to save energy is a good thing," chairman Richard C. Brown said Wednesday. ``We look forward to implementing other energy-saving initiatives as we move forward."

The total cost of the project is \$374,120, but CL&P has a \$94 million fund to help schools and businesses pay for such improvements. The utility will provide 47 percent of the funding or \$175,836. The board will pay the remaining balance in three installments at zero interest. It will pay \$79,313 each in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 budgets. The remaining \$39,657 will be paid in the 2008-09 budget.

Sharon Smith, the school system's business manager, said Nxegen performed site audits at each of the schools, except for Glastonbury High School and designed energy-efficient upgrades. The high school is currently undergoing a renovation project and the upgrades are included.

"The benefits to Glastonbury include reduced consumption, cost-savings and improved light quality," Smith said. ``The projections indicate that savings will exceed costs during the three-year payment schedule."

While board members were impressed by the numbers, some wanted officials to monitor consumption closely to make sure projected savings are realized.

"The project looks terrific," board member Jeremy Grieveson said Monday.

"We are saving money and saving the environment at the same time," board member Thomas Edgington said.

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