

## District spends \$475,000 to make offices 'green'

The Paradise Valley Unified School District recently awarded nearly \$500,000 in contracts to companies to make several district offices more ecologically friendly.

The Benefits Office will be remodeled, and the District Administrative Center and Community Resource Center will receive mechanical upgrades, a new energy management system and retrofitted lighting.

The district has contracts with Johnston Engineering, Pueblo Mechanical, U.S. Energy Services and Woodruff Construction totaling \$475,000. The projects are being funded by the 2005 bond fund.

— Eugene Scott/The Republic/azcentral.com

### THE CHANGES

Mechanical upgrades will modify the existing heating and air-conditioning systems to maximize energy efficiency. The Energy Management Systems will control heating and cooling to conserve energy and reduce utility costs. The Benefits Office will be enlarged by about 150 square feet because of employee growth and the need for a filing system.

### ONGOING PROCESS

The district has spent nearly \$49 million since 2005 on various projects to make its buildings more energy-efficient, including using sustainable green recycled carpet at 31 sites and sustainable roofs at 16 locations. More projects are to come with the 2010 bond, said Michael Green, the district's director of maintenance and operations.

"We are now in the process of planning the future projects for the next bond," Green said. "As of now, we do not know how much this will save the district."

### NO BIDDING

"We do not bid projects," Green said. "We use the Construction Manager At Risk process. This process consists of pre-qualifying contractors. We select them based on experience, financial strength, method of approach and the construction team."

### BOND RECAP

Phoenix voters approved a \$161 million school construction bond in 2005. This bond, paid through property taxes, is the largest in district history. Although the district features several newer school buildings, some district structures were built in the late 1950s and early 1960s.