

\$25,000. The elementary school, however, uses only \$20,000 worth of electricity. Surplus power is sold to Iowa Electric. With the \$25,000 yearly savings, the loan will be completely paid back within a five-year period.

*"I've never done anything that's been so popular in the community."*

— Superintendent Harold Overmann, Spirit Lake School District, quoted on the Iowa Department of Natural Resources internet site

Once the district's loan is repaid, all of the electricity generated by the turbine will represent a direct saving to the district and, therefore, local taxpayers. The money saved can be directed into education. "We're using our non-instructional costs for instructional costs," said Overmann. "With the money we save we can fully equip a computer lab every year instead of paying for electricity."

Not only is the district helping itself, it is also saving the environment, just as it set out to do. The electricity generated by the wind turbine replaces 225 tons of coal and prevents 750,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions from polluting the air every year. "We're proud that we are helping to solve the pollution problem," said Overmann.



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*Lease revenues from this west Texas wind farm are used to finance public education in Texas. The local electric utility leases the land from the state, paying an average of \$120,000 annually.*