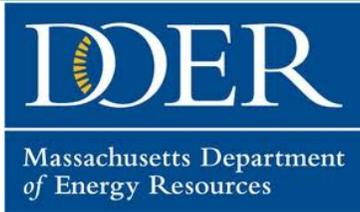


# Berkshire School

## CASE STUDY



### SUMMARY

The Berkshire School creates a culture of environmental awareness in a variety of ways, including courses in energy and the environment, participation in national sustainability competitions, and reliance on renewable power for all of its electricity needs - approximately 40 percent from an on-site solar array, and the balance through the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates.

### TEACHING GREEN PRINCIPLES

- ♦ All incoming students take a sustainability literacy assessment during orientation.
- ♦ All students study ecosystem dynamics and water quality.
- ♦ Students can choose elective courses in environmental topics, such as Sustainability and Resource Management and Advanced Energy.
- ♦ An outdoor program gives students the opportunity to participate daily in activities such as hiking, camping, fishing, rock climbing, ice climbing, mountain biking, and kayaking.
- ♦ The school has even build a replica of Thoreau's cabin for lessons on transcendentalism.

### ADOPTING GREEN PRACTICES

- ♦ Berkshire hired a Director of Sustainability to manage all projects related to environmental awareness.
- ♦ Students compete in the *Green Schools Alliance Green Cup Challenge* and the *Keep America Beautiful Recycle Bowl*.
- ♦ Parents can access a carpool database made with Google Mapmaker.
- ♦ Berkshire has launched a web-based dashboard to track energy use and progress towards sustainability goals.

### Berkshire School

### Information:

Location: Sheffield, MA  
Student Enrollment: 388

### **Berkshire's Solar Energy Generation Field**



### ENERGY COST SAVINGS AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- ♦ Berkshire reduced waste by 39% since 2005.
- ♦ Over 45,000 square feet of school facilities meet LEED Gold Standards.
- ♦ Berkshire won awards in 2007 and 2009 from the National Wildlife Federation EcoSchools and DoSomething.com competitions.