



2115 Grand Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501

**News Release**  
**September 21, 2010**  
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## **XCEL ENERGY RETURNS OVER \$800,000 TO SCHOOL DISTRICT 51 FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT**

**Grand Junction, CO** – At tonight’s business meeting, the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board of Education will receive approximately \$804,000 in rebates from Xcel Energy for projects aimed at saving energy in district buildings and schools completed in conjunction with the Performance Contract with Trane. This is the largest [rebate](#) Xcel has issued in the state of Colorado.

The rebate is the result of lighting replacements that were completed under the first phase of work.

In 2009, School District 51 embarked on a wide series of upgrades as a part of an energy performance contract with Trane. The goal of this project was to reduce energy usage and demand and to use the energy cost savings to pay for the work performed rather than tax dollars. The price tag for the phase I contract with Trane is \$4.2 million; District 51 expects to save approximately \$335,000 in the first year with savings increasing each year through the contract’s 15-year term.

This initiative is important to the Board of Education as it allows funds to be redirected to classrooms for instructional purposes. These efforts not only help the district save money, but they also contribute to a smaller carbon footprint for the future generations. “There’s no better way to use these savings than for students,” said District 51 Board President Harry Butler.

The energy saved equals what 355 student’s homes would use annually. The annual environmental impact is expected to be equivalent to planting 5,000 trees, or removing 381 cars from the road for an entire year.

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Xcel Energy offers the [rebate program](#) as an incentive to help its customers be more efficient with their energy use. As a large customer, Xcel worked with district staff to ensure the rebate corresponded appropriately to the district's amount of energy use.

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