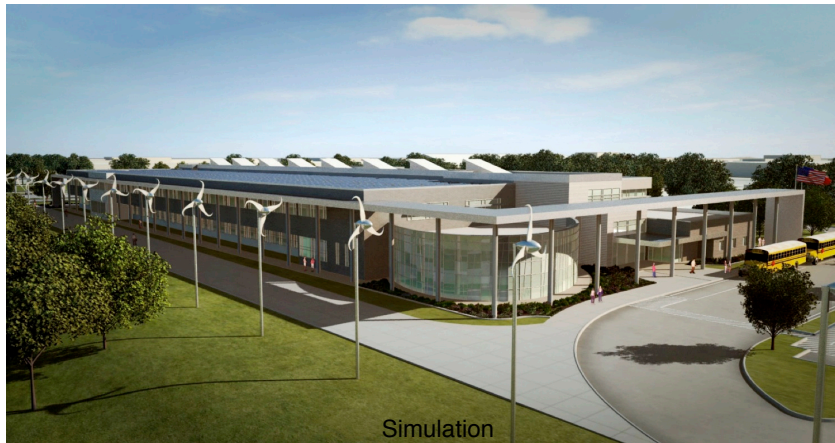


## Project for a Green Middle School



A group of local organizations concerned about our youth, both with respect to their education and their future, have come together to encourage the School Board and the City of Harrisonburg to build the new middle school to the highest environmental and energy efficiency standards, i.e., a LEED certified and Net Zero Energy Building

(LEED/ZEB). LEED has become the norm for public buildings but net zero energy buildings are more rare, and this would be the first ZEB school in Virginia.

ZEB is achieved by first making the building very energy efficient and then adding onsite solar power to provide the remaining energy need. The school would sometimes draw power from the grid while at other times supply surplus power to the grid, so that the *net* utility bill is zero or near zero over the course of the year. Where such schools have been built, the educational aspects of the building have been integrated into the curriculum of the school and of the whole school district.

As stated, LEED construction has become the norm and does not add to construction costs. By adding ZEB, solar panels must be added, but this too can be achieved without added cost by entering into a Power Purchase Agreement with a solar company that installs, owns and maintains the system, selling the power back to the school at a discount of what the school would pay to the utility company. If the new middle school is made LEED/ZEB, the savings in energy costs will on the order of \$250,000 per year.

To show your support of the new Harrisonburg Middle School being LEED/ZEB, go to the Harrisonburg City Public Schools website at:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/HCPSCCommunitySurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HCPSCCommunitySurvey)

You can also sign and comment on our online petition found at [www.change.org](http://www.change.org), by searching for “LEED/ZEB Middle School Project.”

Sponsors: Valley25x’25, CAAV, H’bg Sierra Club, Safe Routes to School, iMatter, Voluntary Gas Tax.