



# News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

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District to Move Forward with Innovative Heating System  
Reduction of fossil fuel reliance congruent with Seattle Climate  
Partnership

Seattle Public Schools received critical support from the Mayor's Office to proceed with plans to utilize a system of innovative wells that uses the ambient temperature of the soil to heat and cool Hamilton International Middle School. A geothermal heat pump system, similar to the one successfully in use at the renovated Madison Middle School, is part of plans to renovate the 80 year old school.

Creative and sustainable building practices such as the geothermal wells are indicative of the School Board's commitment to the Seattle Climate Partnership. In June 2007, the School Board voted unanimously to join other public and private agencies in the city to meet or exceed the global warming reduction targets of the Kyoto Protocol.

"It is very gratifying to be involved, with City collaboration, on a project that will both improve the learning environment for our students and contribute to the environmental health of the planet," said Director Darlene Flynn.

The well-field will be installed six feet below the Wallingford Playfield. Installation is expected to take 16 months after which the District has committed to restoring the field to its intended use and improving a long-standing drainage problem for the field. In recognition of the importance of the Wallingford Playfield to the surrounding community and the city's parks system, the District will conduct a public process to decide additional mitigations regarding the limited use the community will have during construction. More information about the well-field and the renovation project can be found at <http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/hamilton/design/ss/index.htm>.

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