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Upper Canada District School Board to Implement Green Thermostats as Part of Green Schools Pilot Initiative

(Brockville) – The Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB) is one step further to building a greener and more energy-efficient future for its students.

Peter Bosch, the UCDSB's manager of design and construction says that by the end of August, Brockville Collegiate Institute (BCI) and Merrickville Public School will be equipped with state-of-the-art Green Thermostats™ by Log-One Ltd, an environmentally-focused energy management system with patented "pre-heat" technology, specifically designed for school boards and multi-residential buildings.

The Green Thermostats will allow for a variety of energy- and cost-saving benefits that are just not possible with the schools' older energy control systems, says Bosch. For example, the thermostats can be set to a specific school schedule so that the temperature automatically reaches its peak during class hours, and drops to a lower temperature overnight, on weekends and during holidays.

The thermostats can also determine whether or not a classroom is being used during school hours. If by a certain time a class hasn't commenced as scheduled, the technology will assume there's been a last-minute room change or a snow day and maintain its after-hours temperature.

In addition, the technology can control lighting in each room. If a classroom isn't in use for a certain period of time the lights will turn off.

"Those are just some of the benefits that this new technology offers," says Bosch. "All-in-all, the thermostats address two main issues: energy-savings and cost-savings. Not only are we becoming more green and environmentally-responsible, but we'll be able to save financially as well – even while maintaining comfort levels during occupation."

Bosch says the opportunity to implement the Green Thermostats was made possible because of a grant through the Ministry of Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Education's Green Schools Pilot Initiative, a project that gives school boards the opportunity to try out greener technologies.

Four school boards were granted \$1.7 million collectively to pilot the thermostats in specified schools. Once implemented, the thermostats will be monitored so the ministries can determine how much energy and money is saved with the new

technology. If successful, there is potential to implement the Green Thermostats into additional schools, says Bosch.

The school boards currently piloting the thermostats are the UCDSB (as lead board) the Toronto Catholic District School Board, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Bosch says both BCI and Merrickville PS were chosen because they are older schools that are in need of building automation upgrades. He says BCI is also the biggest school in the Green Thermostat project (including the other boards), and organizers are interested in seeing how well the new technology works within a larger secondary school building.

“This technology also supports a lot of the green programs that are currently going on in schools,” says Bosch. “It allows us to support students who recycle and are environmentally responsible so they learn something from this as well. If you look at the financial part, the money we save can be put back into the schools. This technology can benefit everyone.”

In a previous analysis by Log-One, the implementation of Green Thermostat technology in 21 portable classrooms in Toronto allowed for an average savings of 1.8 tonnes of greenhouse gases per classroom each year, and \$1,000 per classroom each year.

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For more information about this and other green school initiatives, please call:

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