



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Beth McRae
The McRae Agency
beth@mcraeagency.com
480-990-0282

Modular School Buildings Move to Net Zero Energy; Dark, Cramped Schools Become Eco-Friendly and Learning-Friendly

VISTA, CALIF. (March 10, 2015) — Gone are the days when students were subjected to learning in cramped modular schools with little access to daylight. Enter the modern modular school which not only floods classrooms with ample natural light but is frequently built to Net Zero Energy standards. So what exactly is a Net Zero Energy (NZE)?

In California, Net Zero Energy performance is defined as the amount of energy provided by on-site renewable energy sources as being equal to the amount of energy used by the building.

The great news for many students is that modular school buildings are pursuing NZE or, at a minimum, are considered energy efficient. Many of these schools are built by American Modular Systems and include:

- West Elementary School
- Brookside Elementary School
- Forest Hills Preschool and Campbell Care
- Lincoln Street School
- Regional Environmental Studies Center (NZE)
- MiraCosta College (NZE)
- Professional Learning Centers
- CampbellCare
- Oakmont High School
- PG&E Zero Net Energy Training Center (NZE)
- Bulldog Tech
- Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School
- Central Coast New Tech High School
- Brentwood School (NZE)
- Atwater Valley Community College
- Albany High School
- Bolsa Knolls Middle School

The benefits of NZE can be illustrated by taking a closer look at one of these modular schools:

Brentwood School in Los Angeles, K-12

[Brentwood School](#) opened its Gen7 high-performance modular classroom wing in January 2012, just one month after installation. It still remains ahead of the curve for school buildings. USGBC LEED Gold certified, the wing's energy data demonstrates ZNE performance – it includes solar panels which generate enough power to fulfill 100 percent of yearly energy requirements. Additional sustainability features include daylighting using large low-energy view windows and Solatube Daylighting Systems. A dedicated outdoor ventilation system circulates 100-percent fresh, filtered air. Brentwood School details include:

- First Net Zero Energy prefab school in Los Angeles
- Awarded LEED Gold Certification
- 70 percent in energy savings
- A 50-year building lifecycle
- Tubular Daylighting Devices (TDDs): 16 750 DS units installed from Solatube International (4 per classroom)
- TDDs include Daylight Dimmers (so classrooms can “go dark” for movies)
- Built by American Modular Systems

The result is a better learning environment for students (studies have shown that exposure to natural light improves performance) and a more effective teaching environment for teachers. The trend toward NZEB will continue to grow as educators see the results of healthier and higher-performance classroom.

This video shows how the modular wing was assembled onsite in less than five hours.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9ZU434tmL4&list=FLteai7iZyNN3PZOmthRvSHA>

Solatube Daylighting Systems are available through factory-trained Solatube Commercial Distributors. For more information, please visit <http://www.solatube.com/commercial>. To learn more about Gen7 ultra-green classrooms, visit www.gen7schools.com or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9ZU434tmL4>.

About Solatube International

Solatube International, Inc., widely recognized as the daylighting industry innovator, has earned worldwide acclaim for its unrivaled ability to transform interior spaces with natural light. Based in California, the company is the leading manufacturer and marketer of tubular daylighting devices (TDDs) for all types of residential and commercial applications, and it continues to innovate with groundbreaking products that increase energy efficiency and light output, such as the award-winning Smart LED System and the high output SkyVault Series. For more information about the company and its related products, visit www.solatube.com or call 888-SOLATUBE.

About American Modular Systems

Modular School Buildings Move to Net Zero

American Modular Systems (www.americanmodular.com) is one of the nation's leading modular manufacturers, designing and building quality commercial and educational facilities since 1983. Gen7 classrooms (www.gen7schools.com) empower communities to create healthy, energy-efficient learning environments that will benefit students and educators for generations to come.

#