

Re: sales tax exemptions

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- *From:* Ann <nntpmail@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 09 Feb 2006 17:44:29 GMT
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jJohn Klausner wrote:

Ann wrote:

Jim Ledford wrote:

snipped

our county is strapped for money as a result of wasting lots of it with attempts to satisfy the newcomers. they keep announcing, got to have a tax increase, got to float a bond for new schools. but last night, something really wonderful happened. a school board member suggested how we could use the closed down factories and other closed down businesses as buildings for new schools. the old square-D factory would make a giant school and already has a food preparation facility contained in it. lots of grounds space for football and soccer fields and enough parking lot for thousands. the board member making the suggestion got a standing round of applause for daring to show such brilliance. sometimes, I've thought it might be against the rules for those in government to suggest ways to save and not waste tax payer money.

3 cheers for the smart school board member!

snipped

As for retro-fitting the Square-D plant as a school, schemes like that are rarely cost effective. Particularly with energy costs likely to go even higher, it would be foolish not to build new, with operating cost in

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mind. I don't know if your school board is uninformed or he/she threw that out there to get the audience off their case. But, don't believe it until they produce the numbers showing a conversion would cost less than new construction.

You may well be right, but if the board shows a willingness and an effort to control costs, I think it's appreciated. The thing now is for the board to get some of those same people involved in working out whether it really is a good idea or not. Do the background work and show people the money – so to speak!

For starters, they could use Google to search on:
"adaptive reuse" school "north carolina"

And, someone should should check with NCDENR to see what environmental remediation might be required. Electrical components plants aren't noted for being "clean".

The thing is, they've known for years that something would have to be done. Delay will only raise the cost and perhaps put them in a situation where they have to make compromises (e.g. operating costs) that will cost the tax payers more in the long run. But if this is planning for a school that won't be needed for ~5 years, I stand corrected.

I had the same thought about the costs...here in California the building standards for school buildings are set so high that it takes at least 3x the cost per square foot to build (and that's a number that's a vague memory, so it may be higher). Still, if people are willing to think "outside the box", instead of just going the path of least resistance maybe they'll be able to come up with something.
SueK