

**GILA RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL**  
Yuma Unified High School District

**Executive Summary**

Gila Ridge is a 274,000 square foot high school completed in 2007. Funding totaled \$4.5 million. The site layout of the school works very well with the hot desert climate of the area.

**Green Features**

Gila Ridge has many green features, including:

- Utilized new technology to prevent outdoor light pollution
- Accent lighting designed with time clocks to shut off lighting after hours
- Computer room receptacles for computers and monitors designed with manual shut off controls to allow for nightly shut down
- Vendor, Arizona School Furniture, recycled cardboard
- Two “breezeway” corridors linking music rooms with the auditorium and dressing room with gymnasiums buffer cooling losses from fully air conditioned spaces

**Results achieved include:**

**Water Efficiency:** Urinals have flush sensors that are battery operated.

**Energy Efficiency:** Lighting in the gymnasiums is controlled by occupancy sensors and has three different circuits to permit manual 30% to 70% reduction in lighting levels.

**Materials and Resources:** The carpet has recycled content and is totally recyclable.

**Indoor Air Quality:** All entrances to classroom buildings have a six-foot walk off carpet.

**Sustainable sites:** The football field is used jointly with the Community College and the auditorium is shared with the community.

**Innovation:** Student circulation and outdoor seating is on the North side of 2 story building to take advantage of shade.

**Savings:** New school, as of the time of this report the savings have not been calculated.

**Benefits:** We are certain the green projects included in the design and operation of this school will improve the overall efficiency of the campus.

**Advice:** Building orientation is the single most important step in the design process. Placing 90% of the windows to the North or South so that direct heat gain and glare can be controlled is so simple and if done early absolutely free.