

News Release

Evergreen Hall Dedicated on Friday, October 2, 2009; Otter Tail Power Company Announces Campus Energy Challenge during Dedication

By Itolfe on Tuesday, October 6, 2009

On Friday, October 2, 2009, the University of Minnesota, Crookston formally dedicated a new residence facility, Evergreen Hall. Along with the dedication, Otter Tail Power Company announced its Energy Challenge Campus, a special project that brings Otter Tail and the U of M, Crookston together to help reduce energy consumption.

A number of dignitaries and special guests were on campus for the building dedication and energy challenge announcement including the following guest speakers:

Charles H. Casey, chancellor, U of M, Crookston
 Clyde Allen, Jr., chair, University of Minnesota Board of Regents
 Bernie Lieder, state representative, Minnesota District 01B
 Gary Willhite, director of residential life and security services, U of M, Crookston
 Thomas Haarstick, president, Crookston Student Association
 Chuck MacFarlane, president and CEO, Otter Tail Power Company
 Bill Glahn, director, Minnesota Office of Energy Security
 Robert Bruininks, president, University of Minnesota (in photo at left)



In the photo above of the ribbon cutting ceremony: (l to r) Representative Bernie Lieder, Residential Life Director Gary Willhite, Regent Clyde Allen, Regent Venora Hung, CSA President Thomas Haarstick, Michael J. Burns (Michael J. Burns Architects), Chancellor Charles H. Casey, U of M President Robert Bruininks, Assistant Professor Brian Dingmann, Ruann Deschene (Community Contractors, Inc.), and Crookston Mayor David Genereux.



Sustainability is a priority for the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Students helped lead the effort for Evergreen Hall to become the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified residence facility in the University of Minnesota system. LEED certification, an internationally recognized green building certification system, means that Evergreen Hall's apartment-style living was designed with consideration for sustainability and less environmental impact.

Evergreen Hall makes use of green building materials, such as countertops throughout the facility that feature recycled glass, banana peel fibers, or paper; recycled vinyl and plastic in the flooring; energy-saving lighting; and interior woodwork milled from evergreen and ash trees removed from the construction site. Another unique feature of the building is an innovative interactive classroom. Evergreen Hall is truly a living, learning center. It showcases the technological advantages offered by the Crookston campus and capitalizes on a history of computer-based innovation.



In photo at left, Chuck MacFarlane, president and CEO, Otter Tail Power Company announced the Campus Energy Challenge. In this first-of-its-kind program, the U of M, Crookston will work with Otter Tail Power Company to reduce electric energy consumption on campus by as much as 15 percent.

Evergreen Hall was designed by Michael J. Burns Architects, Ltd. and built by Community Contractors, Inc. in conjunction with several local and regional subcontractors.

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