

News Release

Results of Campus Energy Challenge to Be Announced April 19

By Itollefs on Monday, April 11, 2011

With measurements complete, results of the groundbreaking Campus Energy Challenge, a collaborative project between the University of Minnesota, Crookston and Otter Tail Power Company, will be announced on Tuesday, April 19, 2011. The announcement will be made at a special energy-savings celebration at Noon in Sargeant Student Center on the Crookston campus. The entire community is welcome to attend.

In a first-of-its-kind program, U of M, Crookston students, faculty, and staff worked with Otter Tail Power Company to reduce electric energy consumption on campus by as much as 15 percent in the first year. In the case of the U of M, Crookston, that translates to approximately a million kilowatt hours. Through a combination of encouraging simple behavior modification--such as assessing personal energy use, turning off lights, and unplugging phone chargers when not being used--and installing more energy-efficient lighting, ventilation, and other technologies, both organizations hope to attain or even surpass that 15 percent savings goal.

In Crookston the April 19 event begins at 11:45 a.m. in Sargeant Student Center with a community-wide networking opportunity. Attendees will be able to meet U of M, Crookston and Otter Tail Power Company officials, get photos taken with Regal the Golden Eagle and Ollie the Otter, enter a drawing for a free energy-efficient landscape design and installation to be done by students, and enjoy light refreshments.

At noon in the Northern Lights Lounge in Sargeant Student Center, the announcement of energy savings will be made. Scheduled to speak are Cris Kling, director of public relations, Otter Tail Power Company; Chuck MacFarlane, president, Otter Tail Power Company; Charles Casey, chancellor, U of M, Crookston; and William Grant, deputy commissioner, Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Division. Following the announcement and speakers, a ceremonial tree planting will be held (weather permitting) near the Early Childhood Development Center. The first 300 attendees at the energy-savings celebration will receive a free sapling tree that can be planted to help reduce carbon emissions.

The Campus Energy Challenge is a pilot project that is part of Otter Tail Power Company's Minnesota Conservation Improvement Program approved by the Minnesota Office of Energy Security. Otter Tail Power Company will also announce the results of the Community Energy Challenge, a similar program working with the community of Rothsay, Minn., on the evening of April 19, in Rothsay.

Otter Tail Power Company, a subsidiary of Otter Tail Corporation (NASDAQ Global Select Market: OTTR), is headquartered in Fergus Falls, Minn. It provides electricity and energy services to more than a quarter million people in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. To learn more about Otter Tail Power Company visit www.otpco.com.

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