



CAMPUS energy CHALLENGE



University of Minnesota, Crookston selected for Challenge

Is it possible to take an entire college campus and get all the students, faculty, and staff on board to save a significant amount of energy and sustain that over a long period of time?

We believe it is. And we believe that the University of Minnesota, Crookston, is the best campus to try this first-of-its-kind energy savings program. Otter Tail Power Company is working together with Crookston to pilot the Campus Energy Challenge as part of our Minnesota Conservation Improvement Program for 2009 and 2010.

Criteria

Otter Tail Power Company selected the University of Minnesota, Crookston, from among four Minnesota colleges within our service area that have student residence halls. The decision was based on the following criteria:

- Size – Total square footage of buildings and number of students living on campus
- Existing heating and cooling technologies
- Overall energy-efficiency potential
- Campus culture, leadership, and student involvement

Program goals

The primary goal of the Campus Energy Challenge is to reduce energy consumption on campus by as much as 15 percent. Crookston's students, staff, and faculty will work together with Otter Tail Power Company employees to research and analyze current electric energy consumption and develop strategies for reducing their use in 2009. Most implementation will occur in 2010. We'll continue to monitor energy savings for five years. During this process, we also expect to develop energy efficiency habits that will help everyone on campus save money on their energy bills and model those habits to the Crookston community, other campuses, and the country.

Three components

The program has three components that provide a framework for the energy-saving strategies chosen. These components will be carried out simultaneously.

- 1. End-use technologies.** The first step is to conduct audits or review existing audit results for all major end-use technologies such as heating and cooling systems, lighting, and refrigeration. Then Crookston facilities managers will work with Otter Tail Power Company energy management specialists and outside engineering professionals to select and install more efficient technologies based on their determination of energy savings likely to be achieved. Savings from such installations will be monitored to determine payback times.

"The goals of Otter Tail Power Company's Campus Energy Challenge fit well with our priorities and goals of establishing a culture of energy efficiency and a more sustainable campus. They also are consistent with systemwide sustainability goals established by University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks. And we are enthusiastic about the level of student participation that Otter Tail Power Company is looking to develop within this program. Our students are developing their lifestyle habits, including their personal energy use. What better time to impress upon them the cost savings they can gain through simple energy conservation efforts."

Charles H. Casey
Chancellor
University of Minnesota,
Crookston

“Otter Tail Power Company is looking for as much as 15 percent energy savings at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, through the Campus Energy Challenge. We realize the magnitude of this challenge but believe it’s achievable because of the leadership students, faculty, and staff have demonstrated in the area of sustainability. These people are committed to making a difference on Crookston’s campus today and going far beyond it in the future.”

Chuck MacFarlane
President and CEO
Otter Tail Power Company

- 2. Behavior changes.** Evidence suggests that mid-sized colleges waste 10 percent to 15 percent of the energy they purchase. Simple behavior changes, when done by everyone on campus, can add up to thousands of dollars of savings. These behaviors can be as easy as turning off a light, shutting a door, pulling a shade, and unplugging chargers for electronics. Other opportunities include changes to building operations such as adjusting building heating and cooling controls, reducing operating schedules, and performing preventative maintenance. Students, faculty, and staff will drive the discussion about which opportunities to pursue.
- 3. Education.** In-depth energy education will occur as students, faculty, and staff work with energy experts to research, analyze, develop, measure, communicate, and evaluate a wide variety of methods to improve energy efficiency on the University of Minnesota, Crookston campus. We are in the process of collaboratively determining what scholarship, internship, and research project opportunities would be most beneficial.

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