

Building Up



Building your business on energy efficiency

A message from ...

the Power of One® Energy Conservation Team

It's hard to believe a quarter century has passed since Minnesota Power and a small group of energy-conscious partners planned the first Energy Design Conference & Expo. Back in 1991, energy-efficiency was not at the forefront of most people's minds, and high performance design and construction were quite new to residential builders. Things have changed.

Today, our region's construction professionals are doing work that is on par with some of the best energy-efficient building practices in the country. We are proud of the role Minnesota Power has played. Our Triple E New Construction program, qualified installers networks, rebate incentives and contractor education have helped raise the bar.

As we approach the 2015 Energy Design Conference & Expo, Feb. 24-25, it is exciting to work with our planning team and partners to create a diverse and robust agenda. The team has outdone itself in delivering top-notch sessions that will be meaningful to attendees. In addition, we have added more preconference specialized trainings, a keynote speaker and some really cool exhibits to celebrate the EDC's 25th anniversary. We hope to see you there, learning innovative ways to build your business on energy efficiency.

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Energy Design Conference Celebrates 25 Years

The EDC celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2015. Many partners have joined Minnesota Power over the years in growing the conference into a "must-attend" event for residential and commercial construction professionals, from builders and contractors to architects, engineers and vendors. Homeowners, property managers, students and others also find it valuable for the latest in high performance design and construction.

Designing and building homes and businesses that are energy efficient, durable and comfortable is an evolving science. One building scientist on the cutting edge of research, theory and practice is Patrick Huelman, associate extension professor and cold climate housing coordinator, University of Minnesota. Huelman helped plan the very first EDC 25 years ago and has remained a valuable partner and popular presenter.

"I have missed a few years, but not very many," Huelman said. "This conference quickly became recognized as a premiere

event for the latest and greatest in energy efficiency, building science and high performance construction—plus it is very open, inclusive and practical."

Huelman credits the EDC with advancing high performance technologies and building practices throughout the region.

"Practices here are well above average, and I'm convinced that events such as the EDC are instrumental," Huelman said. "The conference is focused on relevant content and helping people learn what works and what doesn't work in the field."

This year, Huelman will lead sessions on building science and on preparing for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Zero Energy Ready Home. He will bring part of an award-winning, student-designed Zero Energy Home model that was built for a national competition and featured at the 2014 Minnesota State Fair.

Architect Rachel Wagner attended her first Energy Design Conference & Expo (EDC) in 1997. Since then, she has not missed one single year. Wagner is

a principal in Duluth-based Wagner Zaun Architecture and an expert in low-energy, integrated residential design. For the past 10 years, she has shared that expertise as a member of the EDC sessions planning team, working to ensure a powerful, relevant and meaningful lineup of topics and presenters.

“I feel very lucky to be a part of planning such a big educational event that brings together so many people who are passionate about energy efficient-building and sustainable design.”

Amanda Oja
Energy Efficiency Analyst II
Minnesota Power

“I think the conference consistently delivers a quality and level of education about energy efficiency and building science that builders can incorporate into their work immediately,” Wagner said. “People come back because attention is paid to provide both a solid, basic education plus layers of advanced learning for those who have mastered the basics.”

Looking toward the next 25 years, Wagner hopes to see even stronger partnerships between utilities, educational institutions, governments and practitioners to advance sustainable construction.

“Our region is doing exceptional work, especially in residential building in cold climates, but it is important that we don’t get complacent,” she said. “There is always room for improvement, and this conference is one way to combine efforts and improve the way we build.”

REGISTER NOW!

www.duluthenergydesign.com



25th annual Energy Design Conference & Expo

Hosted by Minnesota Power
February 24–25, 2014
Duluth Entertainment Convention Center

Learn the latest in energy-efficient building technologies, renewable energy, best practices and responsible design.

- More than 40 educational sessions (CEUs available)
- Expo of residential and commercial energy-related products and services
- Industry networking
- Keynote by Sam Rashkin, Chief Architect, DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Preconference sessions (Monday, Feb. 23) on building science, solar energy and commercial energy efficiency

**Early bird registration ends January 30.
Registration deadline is February 16.**

Special thanks from Minnesota Power to the following partners who have contributed to the development, planning and implementation of the 2015 Energy Design Conference & Expo:

ComfortSystems • Energy Conservatory • Ecolibrium3 • Great River Energy • CSITwin Ports Chapter • AIA Northland Chapter • Cooperative Light & Power • Minnesota Department of Commerce—Division of Energy Resources • Wagner Zaun Architecture

Solar Will Shine Before, During and After the EDC

If you are interested in solar photovoltaic (PV) technology and what it takes to become an installer, plan to attend a special preconference session, Monday, February 23, provided by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. There also will be a solar-themed track during the regular conference. It will include sessions on solar energy basics, building solar-ready homes, PV design, solar codes, and selling solar in the current market.

“The Energy Design Conference & Expo is a great place for us to reach out to contractors who are thinking about getting into solar installations,” said Paul Helstrom, renewable program lead, Minnesota Power. “Solar energy is about to take off in Minnesota. If contractors recognize the opportunities and get the proper training, they will be ready when the market hits.”

Visit www.mnpower.com/rebates for complete information on rebates and other energy-saving tools to help your customers make effective energy choices and build your business on energy efficiency.

Rashkin to Keynote EDC and Lead Preconference Session on Building Science

How far have we come in building science? Where are we today? What does the future hold? Learn the answers from Sam Rashkin, Chief Architect of the Building Technologies Office in the U. S. Energy Department’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Rashkin will present a keynote address during the Energy Design Conference & Expo and lead a preconference session Monday, February 23. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn from one of the country’s leading experts in building science!

