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Contact: Amy Rutledge
Manager - Corporate Communications
Minnesota Power/ALLETE
218-723-7400
arutledge@mnpower.com

NEWS

Energy-efficient building, sustainable design, and solar power among highlights of 25th annual Energy Design Conference and Expo

Duluth, Minn.— Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the annual Energy Design Conference and Expo brings expertise in sustainable building and the latest innovations in energy efficiency to the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center on Feb. 23-25.

Minnesota Power hosts and facilitates the event, which includes two days of educational sessions devoted to energy efficiency and sustainable building design, a special full-day preconference focusing on solar energy, and a variety of energy-related exhibits. The preconference gets underway Feb. 23, with the main conference on Feb. 24-25.

What started 25 years ago as a one-day builders conference with just 45 attendees has grown to become the premier energy efficiency and high performance building conference in Minnesota, routinely drawing hundreds of builders, engineers, weatherization specialists, contractors, architects and others interested in energy efficiency, sustainability, renewable energy and environmental topics.

“This conference is our biggest educational outreach event of the year,” said Amanda Oja, Minnesota Power energy analyst and conference coordinator. “It’s a chance to meet and network with individuals, companies and organizations dedicated to the wise use of energy and resources in the building industry. We are especially excited about the scope and quality of this year’s agenda.”

Sam Rashkin, chief architect for the Department of Energy’s Building Technologies Office, is the keynote speaker on Feb. 24. Rashkin, who helps lead the DOE’s research program, Building America, and oversees the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home voluntary labeling program, will speak about “Building Science Yesterday, Today and Into the Future.” Under Rashkin’s leadership, ENERGY STAR[®] for Homes grew to more than 8,500 builder partners, more than one million labeled homes and over 25 percent market penetration nationwide.

This year’s conference features more than 40 educational sessions and more than 50 exhibitors. One section of the exhibit hall will include the University of Minnesota’s award-winning “Race to Zero” student competition project. The display will show the novel building enclosure technologies and integrated heating, ventilation and air conditioning plus hot water system developed by the students for their Zero Energy Ready Home design.

More details about the conference, including a detailed agenda with session descriptions, are available at www.duluthenergydesign.com.



Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 143,000 customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.

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