

Each year, UMD serves as school, workplace and home to more than 12,500 people. The campus community also has a unique culture, one that values the environment and strives toward sustainability.

UMD students, faculty and staff are very attuned to saving energy, conserving resources and protecting the environment. A campus-wide initiative, called “Adding Up to Zero,” challenges all departments and individuals to make choices that improve the institution’s environmental performance and reduce its carbon footprint.

“Our vision is to make sustainability part of how we operate, how we educate and how

we research,” said Mindy Granley, campus sustainability coordinator.

UMD is a recognized leader in environmental responsibility, from its energy-efficient buildings to on-campus energy education, renewable energy research, recycling, water conservation, wastewater management and transportation initiatives. Minnesota Power works closely with UMD on efforts to curb electric usage and demand.

The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) is a lot like a small city.



Energy-Efficient Buildings

The UMD campus may be shrouded in snow for months each year, but its educational facilities are among the greenest in the country.

Energy efficiency is designed into all campus building and renovation projects. "The University is very interested in conservation, and, over time, we have found what works," said John Rashid, AIA, manager of construction and operations at UMD. "Every building contract must follow specific performance guidelines."

Recent projects have been designed to meet stringent standards of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™. It considers sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.

The new UMD Labovitz School of Business and Economics, completed in 2008, was the first new academic building in Minnesota to achieve LEED Gold certification. A major renovation of the UMD Life Sciences Building earned LEED Silver certification.

Many features of these buildings, including energy-efficient lighting, lighting controls, NEMA premium motors, variable frequency drives, energy recovery units and energy management systems, qualified for PowerGrant rebates from Minnesota Power. Since 2002, UMD has received more than \$400,000 in PowerGrant rebates for conservation improvements that are saving an estimated 9,689,064 kWh per year.

"We have worked with UMD on dozens of projects campus wide," said Gary Olson of Energy Management Solutions, an energy consultant for Minnesota Power. "They have an exceptional commitment to energy efficiency."

"UMD takes the time to look at all aspects of its buildings and identify ways to save energy," said Steve Lent, key account manager for Minnesota Power. "It is a responsible way to run a public institution that depends on taxpayer money."

"A Brighter UMD Energy Event"

Teaching by example helps motivate students, faculty and staff to consider energy and resource efficiency in their own lives. The annual "A Brighter UMD Energy Event" is eagerly anticipated on campus.

The energy-efficient lighting sale, held at UMD Stores Express, offers ENERGY STAR®-qualified lamps, compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs and light-emitting diode (LED) holiday lights at special low prices. It also is a fundraiser for the University's U-Pass program, which allows UMD students and employees to ride Duluth Transit Authority buses for free.

Minnesota Power donates one to five dollars for every item sold during the promotion. With more than 3,200 energy-efficient lighting products flying off the shelves, that added up to \$4,500 for U-Pass in 2008.

"Selling energy-efficient lighting to benefit U-Pass is a natural," said John Brostrom, U-Pass coordinator and senior administrative director of UMD Auxiliary Services. "It gets people thinking about how they use energy in their homes and offices, reduces the number of cars on campus and supports UMD's sustainability initiative."

According to Jeff Romano, who manages UMD Stores, "A Brighter UMD" has created a year-round demand for ENERGY STAR® lighting.

"We have decided to become an actual retailer of these products and not just do this event," Romano said. "It has created an opportunity for us to bring in new items that people really want."

Sustainability Fair

Enlightening the broader UMD community about energy efficiency and sustainability was the goal of the Sustainability Fair in December 2008. Six panel discussions were conducted throughout the day. The first reviewed

UMD's overall efforts to become more sustainable, through energy, water and waste management; LEED buildings; and the U-Pass program. Others explored social sustainability, sustainability in business, sustainable agriculture, water management, and energy conservation and innovation. A similar event was held in the spring of 2009.

"Events like this get people thinking about the choices we can make as individuals and as a community to become more sustainable," Granley said.

UMD is expanding its influence by joining a new initiative of Sustainable Twin Ports. It is among 15 "early adopter" businesses and organizations, working to develop strategies that will make Duluth-Superior a more environmentally responsible and vibrant metropolitan area.

Minnesota Power staffed a booth at the Sustainability Fair, and Dean Talbott, who manages Minnesota Power's residential conservation and renewable energy programs, shared his expertise as a panelist. Talbott also is working with UMD on a solar energy research project that is collecting data from a 5.8 kW photovoltaic grid mounted atop the James S. Malosky Stadium.

The Power of One® ... It Begins with You

Noted anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world." One change. One choice. That's all it takes. You can change your world, and Minnesota Power can help.

"Sustainability is a great way for UMD to connect with the community and be part of positive change," Granley said.

UMD is one community that has chosen to save energy, lower costs, benefit the environment and improve society through the choices it makes every day. Minnesota Power provides education and incentives to make energy-saving decisions a little easier.

