



JESSICA DOYLE

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Contact: Libby Gerds, Office of the First Lady, 608-209-3536

First Lady Doyle and PSC Commissioner Azar Present Eau Claire School with Energy and Environmental Leadership Award

**Flynn Elementary is First School in Wisconsin to
Earn Existing Building LEED Certification**

Eau Claire, Wis. (March 25, 2008) – First Lady Jessica Doyle and Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) Commissioner Lauren Azar today presented Flynn Elementary School with a plaque in recognition of earning The United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. Flynn Elementary is the first school in Wisconsin to earn the LEED® Existing Building certification and one of very few in the country.

The LEED for Existing Buildings Rating System helps building owners and operators address cleaning and maintenance issues while maximizing operational efficiency and minimizing environmental impacts. To earn LEED certification, Flynn Elementary School implemented several environmentally-friendly and energy-conscious policies within the school, including a green cleaning policy and a maintenance schedule for equipment.

"Fortunately for Flynn Elementary, for students everywhere and for Wisconsin, your painstaking efforts have saved money, reduced energy use, and created a cleaner environment and a safe and comfortable learning atmosphere," said First Lady Doyle. "I applaud the Eau Claire Area School District and Flynn Elementary School for proving the best education comes from leading by example."

Construction of the 54,000-square-foot Flynn Elementary School was completed in 2002. With the help of Ayres Associates, the school was designed with several energy efficient and sustainable design features, including daylighting and occupancy sensors. In 2007, Flynn Elementary started looking into the LEED certification process and how to adopt more environmentally-friendly practices. At that time, representatives from the school contacted Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative, to discuss the process of meeting LEED requirements.

Focus helped Flynn Elementary recognize opportunities to increase its efficiency and sustainability through LEED certification and offered to invest in the certification process. Focus helped the school's energy team and The Boldt Company embark on the rigorous task of meeting the LEED standards.

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The LEED Existing Building Rating System requires proof that energy efficiency and environmentally-friendly processes are in place and building equipment is performing at peak levels. Some of the projects Flynn Elementary has completed include updating their HVAC system, developing a maintenance schedule for all building equipment, tracking the waste stream for light bulbs that contain mercury, developing a waste reduction plan and creating a green cleaning policy. They have also encouraged healthy lifestyles among staff and students by creating parking spots reserved for hybrid vehicles and making bicycle racks available.

For more information about ways your school, business or home can become energy efficient, call (800) 762-7077, or visit focusonenergy.com.