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University of Wisconsin-Parkside Saves \$97,000 in Annual Energy Costs
- UW-Parkside launches major renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives -

Madison, Wis. (October 5, 2009) — Next time you're at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, you'll notice a new energy on campus—solar energy, to be exact. As one of southeastern Wisconsin's largest educational institutions, UW-Parkside put Kenosha, Wis. on the renewable energy map in a big way with the installation of a 26-kilowatt solar electric system that will help power the campus for the next 30-plus years.

With the help of Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide resource for energy efficiency and renewable energy, the school installed three separate solar electric systems that will convert the sun's energy into more than 34,000 kilowatt-hours of renewable electricity.

"We wanted a visual representation of the sustainability initiative that our university has been actively pursuing," said Don Kolbe, director of facilities management at UW-Parkside.

"With the confluence of state, federal and utility incentives that are available for the installation of renewable energy systems, now is an excellent time to install a solar system," said Don Wichert, Focus on Energy's renewable energy program director.

Before investing in the renewable energy system UW-Parkside gave its Sports and Activity Center (SAC) a green lighting makeover by replacing its existing metal-halide light fixtures with high-bay fluorescents and adding ceiling-mount occupancy sensors. By implementing energy-efficient lighting measures, the university was able to reduce its energy needs, and therefore, the size requirements of its renewable energy system. The result is a smaller, less expensive system that can meet a greater proportion of the energy demand.

"The new lighting not only saves energy and helps the environment, but also substantially reduces our energy costs and keeps our budgets down," said Dan Ferraro, engineering specialist

manager at UW-Parkside. “On top of all that we have a better light quality now that really showcases our field house and our gymnasium.”

Focus on Energy provided technical expertise and \$89,000 in financial incentives to help move UW-Parkside’s renewable and energy-efficiency efforts forward. With these projects, along with replacing more than 5,000 incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, the campus will ultimately be in a position to save more than 1.2 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually—enough energy to power 125 Wisconsin homes for a year. The university will then be able to enjoy more than \$97,000 in energy savings on its energy bills each year.

UW-Parkside’s environmental leadership has resulted in a campus-wide effort to position the university as a champion of sustainability among Wisconsin universities. Recycling programs, green cleaning products, rain gardens, lighting upgrades and the installation of solar electric systems are all direct results of the conscious decision UW-Parkside has made to bring sustainability to the forefront.

Focus on Energy can help businesses and residents across the state identify and evaluate energy saving opportunities, provide recommendations, develop energy management plans and arrange technical training opportunities about energy conservation.

For more information, call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

About University of Wisconsin-Parkside

UW-Parkside is a four-year comprehensive liberal arts university that is part of the University of Wisconsin System. The university serves residents of southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois on 700 wooded acres located in Kenosha County.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state’s growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information, call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

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