

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS

## **A renewable, sustainable education.**

*The University of Minnesota, Morris is at the forefront of change. Our history is one of helping students reach their full potential as citizen leaders, and we're striving to create physical and educational transformation that emphasizes fair treatment of all people, respect for our natural resources, and financial stewardship.*

—Troy Goodnough  
UMM campus sustainability coordinator

The University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) has advanced sustainability initiatives since Earth Day in 2000. These efforts have grown to levels of national leadership and now touch nearly all aspects of campus life—food, power, water, transportation, recycling, academic study, and quality of life. Partnerships with a multitude of organizations, neighbors, and friends have been essential in this work. Numerous state and national resources have advanced these collective efforts.

UMM's vision for 2010 is to achieve carbon neutrality and energy self-sufficiency.

## **Engaged Students**

UMM students are actively transforming the campus by participating in the shared governance process and serving on committees that explore the use of resources. They research and utilize national and statewide resources in sustainable energy, food systems, and more. Students focus public discourse on sustainability by bringing to the campus: movies, speakers, projects, and events such as the National Campus Energy Challenge.

## **Green Education**

An interdisciplinary major in environmental studies complements the renewable energy and sustainability initiatives in place or in progress at UMM. The major draws from courses in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences, and includes a required internship or research experience.

UMM faculty members have been engaged in environmental research for many years, in a wide variety of areas, from prairie ecology to bacterial resistance to renewable and sustainable energy.

## **Going Green Saves Green**

UMM's fleet of gas-electric hybrid Toyota Prius offsets more than 21 tons of carbon dioxide (about 2,200 gallons of gasoline) per year. This is approximately the same amount of carbon dioxide that the average American produces every year (as determined by the Union of Concerned Scientists).

The fleet also features a zero emission vehicle (ZEV) which runs on electricity instead of gas. It costs 3 cents per mile to drive the ZEV and nearly 33 cents per mile for a gasoline powered vehicle. The annual cost of electricity to power the ZEV is \$161, saving \$1,635 per year.

Campus leaders worked together on a water conservation study and upgrade in 2002. New fixtures with water-saving features, such as restrictors in bathroom sinks and showers, low flow water toilets, and automated urinal flushers have been installed campuswide. UMM diligently recycles aluminum, corrugated cardboard, office paper, and more. In 2007, UMM redirected 65 tons of recyclables from landfills at \$211 per ton, saving the campus \$13,715.

## **Green Buildings**

The Green Prairie Living and Learning residential life facility, scheduled to open in fall 2010, will provide contemporary undergraduate student housing for 80 students in an eco-friendly model designed for sustainable living and learning.

The Gateway Center, also scheduled to open fall 2010, is a green renovation—preserving a historic UMM building, while incorporating green building practices. This building will be a portal to all UMM visitors and will enhance access to the one of the richest resources in the state—the University of Minnesota.

## **A National Leader in Green Energy**

UMM is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and the Upper Midwest Association for Campus Sustainability. In June 2007, UMM Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson and more than 250 other college and university presidents formally committed to sharply reducing and eventually eliminating campus global warming emissions by adopting the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment during a summit of higher education leaders in Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have inducted UMM into the Green Power Leadership Club for UMM's outstanding commitments and achievements in green power. In 2005, the DOE and EPA presented UMM with a Green Power Leadership Award for commitment to on-site generation of renewable energy.

The first large-scale wind research turbine constructed at a U.S. public university overlooks the Morris campus. The 1.65 MW wind turbine supplies power to nearly all of UMM's buildings.

An on-campus biomass reactor will use corn stover (stalks) from the region's farmers to generate steam to meet 80 percent of the campus's heating and cooling needs. This demonstration and research facility will help generate new knowledge about biomass technology. UMM's goal is to develop an integrated energy platform on a community scale that takes advantage of wind and biomass technologies.

In 2008, UMM received authorization to issue Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) for three purposes: to install a second wind turbine near the West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC); to add a steam turbine onto the biomass reactor which will produce electricity from "green" steam; and to install a third wind turbine in western Minnesota, that will be shared with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The CREBs will continue to move the Morris campus forward as a national leader in renewable energy systems.

## **Local Foods go to College—Pride of the Prairie**

UMM'S local foods initiative is one of the longest-running local foods efforts in Minnesota higher education. UMM is a founding partner in the Pride of the Prairie Local Foods Initiative. Each semester, UMM hosts a Pride of the Prairie Food Expo and Farmer's Market, featuring locally, organically, and sustainably grown foods. Minnesota Grown Food Alliance certified foods are served regularly in the campus's dining facilities.

## **UMM's Partners**

The Morris campus's achievements are supported by the State of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota system and the Green Prairie Alliance—a local collaboration that includes UMM, the United States Department of Agriculture North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab (or "Soils Lab"), and the WCROC. The Alliance partners are working hard to make Morris a destination for the people of the State of Minnesota, the region, and the world who want to learn more about a future that will be less dependent on foreign and nonrenewable sources of energy.

To learn more, visit: [www.morris.umn.edu/greencampus](http://www.morris.umn.edu/greencampus)

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