



The Phillips Eco-Enterprise Center
Earns the ENERGY STAR for Superior Energy Efficiency

(October 22, 2008, Minneapolis, MN) The Phillips Eco-Enterprise Center (PEEC), owned/managed by The Green Institute, has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) prestigious ENERGY STAR, the national symbol for protecting the environment through superior energy performance.

Building Operator Helen Spry responded "I am amazed every week by how many building tour requests we get. With the 'green' buzz, the PEEC has acquired a whole new set of fans. The solar array and geo-thermal systems that were employed here reduce operating costs. In our tenth year, we have also found that some green features require additional attention as they age, such as the green roof that requires occasional weeding. Still, they create a phenomenal space for our occupants."

Reducing energy usage was an original goal, which affected the choices made throughout the design and development process, such as in the procurement of locally-sourced materials and the compact floor plan that reduced the building's footprint. From on-site renewable energy production to energy efficient lighting throughout, the PEEC has, for ten years, demonstrated the achievable environmental and economic benefits of striving for energy performance, even in the commercial-industrial sector. Earning ENERGY STAR highlights the PEEC's status within the top 25 percent of commercial facilities in the nation.

In the U.S., energy loss from the industrial sector represents more than 30 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions. EPA's national energy performance rating system provides a 1-100 scale that helps organizations assess how efficiently their facilities use energy relative to similar facilities nationwide. A building that scores a rating of 75 or higher is eligible for the ENERGY STAR. The rating system is now even available for petroleum refineries, wet corn milling plants, motor vehicle manufacturing plants and cement plants.

ENERGY STAR was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Products and buildings that have earned the ENERGY STAR designation prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the government. In 2006, Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved about \$16 billion on their energy bills while reducing the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 27 million vehicles.

*To calculate greenhouse gas emissions, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html>

For more information about The Green Institute visit www.greeninstitute.org

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