



NEWS & INFORMATION

1375 E. Court Ave, RM 69 • Des Moines, Iowa 50319 • 515.725.7300

Elizabeth S. Jacobs, Chair Darrell Hanson, Member Swati A. Dandekar, Member

Contact: Rob Hillesland, 515.725.7322 or rob.hillesland@iub.iowa.gov

Iowa Utilities Board building earns national award *Energy efficient design features exceed first-year energy goal*

April 23, 2012 (Des Moines) – The model energy efficient office building of the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) and Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) was recently selected to receive the prestigious Top Ten Green Building Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Committee on the Environment (COTE). The IUB-OCA building project will be honored in May at the AIA 2012 National Convention and Design Exposition in Washington, D.C. To read more visit: <http://www.aia.org/press/AIAB094197>.

In addition to the COTE Award, other IUB-OCA building honors include:

- AIA Central States Region Merit Award
- AIA Iowa Merit Award
- AIA Kansas Merit Award
- AIA Kansas City Merit Award
- Built Environment Award at Des Moines' Environmental Impact Awards

The new building, located on the State's Capitol Complex, far exceeded design expectations for energy consumption in the first year of occupancy by using a wide variety of energy efficient and sustainable systems. Its first-year overall energy use of 22.4 Kilo British Thermal Units (kbtu) per square foot surpassed an already ambitious initial energy reduction goal of 28.0 kbtu annually. A typical office building of similar size, compliant with the Iowa Energy Code, is estimated to use 70.0 kbtu annually.

"This State office building is a success story because it uses readily available energy efficient technologies that can be easily replicated," said IUB Chair Libby Jacobs. "The Board is pleased to share this resource as a leading example of energy efficiency and encourages both the private and public sectors to tour the facility."

Roof-mounted solar panels produced 18.5 percent of the energy consumed since July 2011, dropping the building's net energy use to 20.5 kbtu during the first year. The energy savings of the IUB-OCA building is equivalent to an efficiently designed automobile that gets 82 miles per gallon compared to today's new car average of 24 miles per gallon.

Based on an average electricity cost of eight-cents per kilowatt hour, the building's overall energy reduction for a year produced approximately \$51,352 in savings. Those savings would power about 63 Iowa homes for an entire year.

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Besides being a model for energy efficiency, the IUB-OCA building was constructed with budgetary efficiency in mind. The new building, constructed at a cost of \$9.8 million, came in well below projections and replaces former leased space located off the Capitol Complex. The two agencies are financing the building with 20-year public bonds.

The building showcases a mixture of energy efficient and renewable energy systems designed into the 44,460 square foot space. Based on eight-cents per hour electricity cost, the estimated payback period is just 6.03 years for the building's energy efficient measures and solar generation system. Key features include: geo-thermal heating and cooling technology accounting for the largest share of the energy savings, super-efficient precast concrete wall panels, daylight harvesting solar screens, special workspace electrical outlet controls, a water management system, lighting and occupancy sensors, and operable windows for use on temperate days. An overall V-shaped building design allows for maximum use of daylight. On-site water filtering and containment mechanisms, and LED lighting technology illuminates the courtyard entrance and walkways. The building's lobby has an energy information kiosk for use by visitors and staff. The interactive touch screen monitor provides energy efficiency facts, real-time energy consumption, and solar generation data.

Once fully commissioned, the building is expected to receive LEED Platinum certification, recognized internationally as the highest level of green building certification, developed by the [U.S. Green Building Council \(USGBC\)](#). BNIM Architects of Des Moines designed the building and coordinated closely with both the IUB and OCA in implementing its energy efficient and environmentally sound features. The general contractor was J.P. Cullen of Janesville, Wisconsin.

The IUB and OCA encourage the public to tour the building. To schedule a tour or learn more about the energy reduction and cost-saving ideas of the building, please contact Judi K. Cooper at (515) 725-7312.

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The Iowa Utilities Board regulates utilities to ensure that reasonably priced, reliable, environmentally responsible, and safe utility services are available to all Iowans. For more information, please visit the IUB website at: www.iub.iowa.gov.