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IUB-OCA State office building wins national award for its exceptional energy savings

Model building far surpasses original high efficiency goals

(Des Moines) – The Iowa Utilities Board-Office of Consumer Advocate building has received special recognition among former American Institute of Architects COTE Top Ten Green Building Award recipients by receiving an AIA Cote Top Ten Plus Award. The IUB-OCA building was selected for exceeding its already exemplary performance expectations for energy efficient design, innovation, community integration, land use, material use and construction, lifespan capabilities, feedback mechanisms, and responses to light, air, energy, and water concerns and use.

In 2013, the IUB-OCA building also received [LEED® Platinum](#) status. The building is currently consuming 16.7 Kilo British Thermal Units (kbtu) per square foot annually, which far exceeds the energy-saving design model of 28 kbtu per square foot each year. Additionally, rooftop solar panels are providing 25 percent of the building's power needs or about double the 12.5 percent that was originally modeled. The building's net energy consumption is exceeding a savings of 81 percent in comparison to the national office building average of 90 kbtu per square foot per year.

It was noted that while the building's geo-thermal heating and cooling technology accounts for about 39 percent of its energy savings and a total energy recovery unit about 12 percent, numerous smaller strategies and the building occupants' willingness to embrace a culture of energy conservation has helped to achieve significant additional plug-load savings over the building's original energy savings expectations. BNIM Architects of Des Moines designed the highly regarded demonstration building and coordinated closely with both the IUB and OCA in implementing its energy efficient and environmentally sound features.

Other key building features include: 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 responsibly manage six acres of storm water as well as an equally sized off-site area, 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. An interactive touch screen monitor provides energy efficiency facts, real-time energy consumption, and solar generation data.

The IUB-OCA building was designed to be a teaching model and the public is invited to tour the building. To schedule a tour or learn more about the energy reduction and cost-saving features of this 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.