



Non-Profit Energy Makeover

Lao Family Community of Minnesota, Fall 2010

What: Xcel Energy and The Green Institute have teamed up to demonstrate significant energy savings and showcase Xcel Energy's energy conservation programs for non-profit facilities. The project will include installations of low cost energy improvements, some larger investments as well as recommendations for future improvements to help save energy. As part of this project we will survey employees and train them about energy and waste reduction to both motivate and educate at Lao Family and at home.

Who: The Lao Family Community of Minnesota is a non-profit founded in 1977 dedicated to the well-being of the Hmong community in Minnesota. They offer bilingual and bicultural services through a community center located on University Avenue in the Frogtown neighborhood of Saint Paul. The building is 70 years old and has undergone some significant energy related retrofits, including installing more energy efficient lighting (T-8) and converting their steam heating system to forced air. However, the building still reflects the design of the 1940s has many single-pane windows.

When: The background work of conducting the energy audit and soliciting contractors began in the summer of 2010, and the makeover on the building kicked off in the fall. We anticipate the work to happen over the fall and winter so we are able to capture the heating season savings.



Partners: While Xcel Energy and The Green Institute are leading this effort, we have gathered partners to donate time or materials to make this project a reality. The contributors include;

- **Andersen Windows**-donated windows for resource center
- **Bavolak Electricity**- installed power factor correction unit
- **Bruce Arnold Mechanical**- installed programmable thermostats
- **Energy Misers LLC**- obtained LED lighting donation for all lighting from Toshiba
- **Eureka Recycling**- recycling and composting assessment and staff & community education
- **Flannery Construction**-donated labor to install windows
- **Honeywell**- donated programmable thermostats
- **Owens Companies**- donated time for tour of systems and programmed thermostat
- **Staco Energy**- donated a power factor correction unit



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Events: In addition to the December 2, 2010 kick-off event we plan and a gathering in the spring of 2011 to share and celebrate the success of the project. The Green Institute plans to document the savings, applicable rebates, financing opportunities and lessons learned about employee behavior (including stories and photos) in a case study in the spring of 2011.