

Summer 2011

ideas

For Better Energy Management

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cover story:

**Omaha Public Schools
Receives Harding Award**

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OPPD
Omaha Public Power District



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The Omaha Public School District receives OPPD's Harding Award for energy management and environmental stewardship. Pictured is the North High School addition. Photo courtesy Tom Kessler.

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Ideas Magazine

Ideas is published by Omaha Public Power District for its commercial and industrial customers. The magazine promotes the efficient use of energy and provides information about new technology in the energy industry.

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ENERGY STAR

OPPD is a proud ENERGY STAR partner. ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, helping consumers save money and protect the environment through energy-efficient products and practices.

About OPPD

Omaha Public Power District is a publicly owned utility that serves more than 346,000 customers in 13 counties in south-eastern Nebraska. OPPD's commercial and industrial rates are consistently below the national average.

For more information on OPPD, please visit oppd.com.

Your energy partner®



OPPD Committed to Nuclear Power, Safe Operations at Fort Calhoun Station

When the magnitude 8.9 earthquake hit Japan in March, problems at several of Japan's nuclear reactors dominated headlines and prompted questions about the safety of the nation's nuclear power plants. Those in the nuclear power industry paid close attention to what was happening in Japan, including many at OPPD's Fort Calhoun Station, a 484-megawatt nuclear plant.

OPPD personnel took immediate action to examine how they would manage a similar crisis.

"We have a tremendous responsibility to protect public health and safety, and we take that very seriously," said OPPD Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer Dave Bannister. "FCS has a robust design, with multiple back-up safety systems, and we have a well-trained and dedicated staff. To ensure this, OPPD has invested appropriately in the station, with strategic component upgrades, equipment replacement and inspection to ensure the station operates well."

OPPD generated about 30 percent of its electricity in 2010 at Fort Calhoun Station. Nuclear power accounted for 19.6 percent of the electricity produced in the U.S. in 2010, and 14 percent of the world's electricity in 2009, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute.

Nuclear energy continues its reemergence on the national scene as a potential source of solving some of the nation's energy problems and reducing carbon emissions from fossil generation, despite the problems Japan has faced after the tsunami and earthquakes.

Nuclear is one of the many fuels OPPD uses to generate electricity. The generation mix also includes coal, oil, natural gas, landfill gas and wind.

A diverse fuel mix protects electric companies and their customers from contingencies, such as fuel availability, it helps ensure stability and reliability in electricity supply, and it strengthens national security.

OPPD Gives Groups Greenery Grants

OPPD awarded nearly \$32,000 in tree sponsorships this spring to 23 community groups and organizations in its 13-county service area. The groups include schools, churches, youth organizations, and neighborhood associations.

The sponsorships were awarded through OPPD's Tree Promotion Program.

Qualifying projects promote energy efficiency and/or beautification, and they must be located on public property or that owned by a nonprofit organization. The program allows for the planting of shrubs, as well as trees.

OPPD created the program in 1989 to promote the planting of trees and to provide education concerning the value, selection, placement and welfare of trees. Since its inception, OPPD has provided more than \$1 million in funding for such projects.



Fort Calhoun Station



Omaha Public Schools
receives the 2011
J.M. Harding Award
of Excellence.

Practicing What They Teach



Jeremy Madson, OPS construction manager, left, and Wyndle Young, OPPD account executive, stand in the entryway to Educare Indian Hills.

With more than 150 years of education to its credit, Omaha Public School District is a shining example of applying what is learned in the classroom to the “real” world. The largest school district in Nebraska, OPS serves more than 49,000 students and employs more than 4,100 teachers and 2,900 administrative and support staff in 86 schools.

True to its mission of providing educational opportunities that enable all students to achieve his or her highest potential, OPS understands the importance of providing conducive learning environments.

Not only do OPS facilities create comfortable learning environments that stimulate students and staff, but district personnel take extra measures when it comes to the energy-efficiency of OPS buildings. In fact, Omaha Public Schools’ Green Schools Initiative is designed to make OPS one of the most energy- and resource-efficient school districts in the country.

For Omaha Public Schools’ long-standing commitment to Omaha students and its innovative and wise use of energy, Omaha Public Power District proudly awards OPS the 2011 J.M. Harding Award of Excellence.



At Omaha North High School, the engineering, science and technology addition classrooms are visually open both for the security of the occupants and to exhibit the activities within the classrooms. Photo courtesy Tom Kessler.

At Omaha's North High Magnet School, an engineering, science and technology addition provides a learning environment that students of any age would envy. Completed in 2010, the addition was designed to give the 88-year-old inner city school a new image.

Four-stories high, the sleek glass and metal addition is tucked between two wings of the brick school, built in 1922. Biology, media technology and engineering students use the building, which actually serves as a teaching tool. Architect RDG left all of the building's systems exposed so students could see the equipment first-hand. The facility also features a two-story greenhouse that opens to a green roof, which helps keep the roof cooler and reduces energy bills.

While keeping the needs of the students, teachers and parents in mind, OPS and its project team achieved LEED

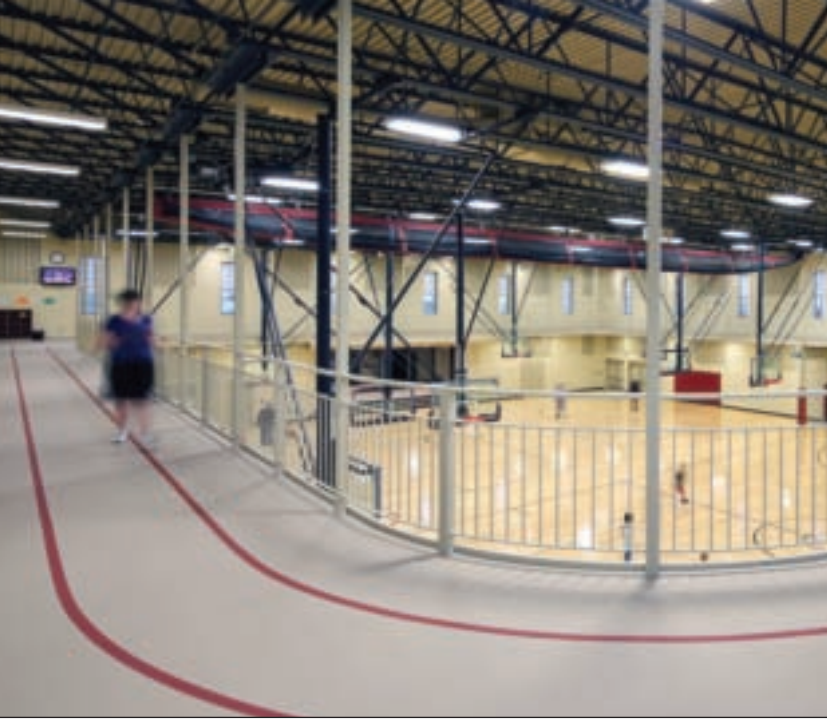
silver certification for the North High project, making it the first LEED-certified K-12 school building in Nebraska.

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized green-building certification system. LEED verifies a facility was designed and built to improve energy and water efficiency, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, improve

indoor environmental quality, and demonstrate good stewardship of resources. Points are awarded for meeting the criteria set forth in each subcategory. Projects with between 40 and 49 points are considered certified. Silver-certified projects receive between 50 and 59 points. Gold and platinum certifications require even more points.



At Saddlebrook Elementary – a partnership between OPS, the Omaha Public Library and Omaha Parks and Recreation – a comfortable setting incorporates reading and study areas. Photo courtesy Tom Kessler.



Interesting architecture and large-scale inspirational words – *explore*, *discover* and *believe* – greet students and staff each day.

“Saddlebrook is one of three finalists for the James D. MacConnell Award,” said Jeremy Madson, construction manager for OPS.

Dr. MacConnell, considered the father of educational

A track overlooks the gymnasium at Saddlebrook Elementary.
Photo courtesy Tom Kessler.

A Class Act

“Omaha Public Schools has always been a good steward of its energy resources,” said OPPD Account Executive Wyndle Young. “However, the district has made a concerted effort in recent years to really elevate their commitment.”

“Omaha Public Schools is extremely pleased to have been selected for the J.M. Harding Award of Excellence,” said Dr. Jerry Bartee, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. “This great accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and efforts of students, teachers, administrators and staff from across the district. We are committed to an environmentally friendly atmosphere for all of our students and will continue working towards providing a clean, healthy and green learning environment.”

Named for the first president of OPPD, J.M. Harding,

the award has been given since 1984 to a commercial or industrial customer for demonstrating efficient and innovative use of energy.

The North High project is just one of several examples of how OPS is managing its energy resources wisely. Another example is Saddlebrook Elementary, which is a partnership between OPS, the Omaha Public Library and Omaha Parks and Recreation.

Green features at Saddlebrook include:

- a green roof, where they measure and track outdoor temperatures, wind speed, etc., in comparison to a traditional roof
- native landscaping
- bioswales, landscape elements designed to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water, and staff is measuring rainwater collection volume in comparison to a traditional sewer.

facility planning, was instrumental in nurturing this profession from its infancy to its significant stature in education today. Dr. MacConnell is best remembered as the director of Stanford University’s School Planning Laboratory, which he founded in 1951. The laboratory was the first center of applied and fundamental research on integrating school construction with child development, curriculum and instructional methods. The MacConnell Award is considered to be the most prestigious educational facility planning award.

Stars are Born

Madson also said that OPS leveraged a partnership with Verdis Group to benchmark and monitor the energy use of all OPS buildings using the Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR program. The program has developed energy-performance rating systems for commercial and institutional building types and manufacturing facilities. The ratings

provide a means for benchmarking the energy efficiency of specific buildings and industrial plants against the energy performance of similar facilities.

“In 2009, 89 OPS buildings were benchmarked, and 85 were rated under the ENERGY STAR program,” Madson said.

Schools with a rating of 75 or higher on a 100-point scale are eligible to receive an ENERGY STAR award. OPS had four schools that qualified and earned the award in 2009, five in 2010, and it appears that as many as 12 schools may be eligible for an ENERGY STAR award in 2011. In addition, OPS was the first school district in Nebraska to become an ENERGY STAR partner.

In winter 2010, Verdis Group and DLR Group conducted site visits of the 15 OPS buildings that scored the lowest in the benchmarking exercise. “Energy action plans were completed

to pinpoint several opportunities for increased energy and resource efficiency, and we already have made progress,” Madson said.

“The district’s average ENERGY STAR ranking and average utility costs are both key measures of the OPS’s efforts to be more efficient,” said Madson “The initial benchmarking in August 2009 found an average district-wide score of 52.

“Our energy-management team is hard at work identifying ways that our buildings can be more energy-efficient, while ensuring that they are adequately heated, cooled, illuminated and have excellent indoor air quality,” Madson said.

Here are other ways OPS is effectively managing its energy resources and demonstrating its commitment to the environment:

- **Green Schools Initiative.** OPS is prepared to save hundreds of thousands of dollars and significantly

Omaha Public Schools Joins Elite List of Harding Award Winners

OPPD has awarded the Omaha Public Schools with the 2011 J.M. Harding Award of Excellence for efficient and innovative use of energy.

The award, given annually since 1984, is named for J. M. Harding, OPPD’s first president. Harding served in that capacity for 20 years and built OPPD into the most progressive public power district in the state.

Past Winners

- 2010 – Bellevue Public Schools
- 2009 – Gallup
- 2008 – NatureWorks
- 2007 – Mutual of Omaha
- 2006 – Millard Public Schools
- 2005 – Methodist Health System
- 2004 – The Lund Company
- 2003 – Henry Doorly Zoo
- 2002 – Creighton University
- 2001 – Westside Community Schools
- 2000 – Offutt Air Force Base
- 1999 – University of Nebraska Medical Center
- 1998 – Baker’s Supermarkets
- 1997 – Bellevue Public Schools
- 1996 – First National Bank
- 1995 – 3M Valley
- 1994 – Nebraska Furniture Mart
- 1993 – First Data Resources, Inc.
- 1992 – KVI Associates, Inc.
- 1991 – Omaha Public Schools
- 1990 – Mutual of Omaha Companies
- 1989 – Wilkinson Manufacturing
- 1988 – Campbell Soup Company
- 1987 – Control Data Corporation
- 1986 – Vickers
- 1985 – AT&T – Omaha Works
- 1984 – Valmont Industries, Inc.



Educare at Indian Hills is the second such facility in Omaha, but there are several nationwide. Funded entirely by the Buffett Early Childhood Foundation, but operated and maintained by OPS, the facility provides education and care for ages 6 weeks to 5 years old.



The North High School addition features a green roof.

Photo courtesy Tom Kessler.

lighten its impact on the environment with its Green Schools Initiative. The core committee is comprised of administrators, teachers, students, parents, custodians and community partners, such as OPPD, Metropolitan Utilities District and the Green Omaha Coalition.

- **Lighting.** In the summer of 2010, OPS completed the first phase of a major lighting retrofit in 21 schools, replacing 50,000 lamps and 18,000 ballasts with more energy-efficient lighting. This summer, phase two involves 30 schools that will replace 70,000 lamps and 30,000 ballasts.
- **Geothermal heat pumps.** 21 OPS schools have geothermal heat pumps systems, and two schools currently under construction – Gateway Elementary and the yet-named 132nd & State Street Middle School – will have them. These systems use the earth as a heat source in the winter and to help cool the buildings in the summer via a series of wells and pipes buried deep underground. These systems take advantage of

the moderate temperatures in the ground to boost efficiency and reduce the operational costs of heating and cooling systems. The pipes are usually hidden underneath playgrounds or other green spaces at the schools.

- **Windows.** OPS uses low-E coating, insulated windows. In addition, the district has been putting some shades on windows on south-exposed rooms to reduce some sunlight and cut energy costs.
 - **Durable, sustainable materials.** With constant wear-and-tear by the hundreds of students and staff day in and day out, OPS facilities contain a lot of low-maintenance, durable finishes, such as polished concrete floors.
 - **Paint.** OPS uses a wide array of paint colors at its schools and facilities to spark creativity, and primarily uses low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) or no-VOC paints, which are better for air quality and are virtually odor-free.
 - **Recycled content.** Many products in OPS buildings are made from recycled contents, including cabinetry and shelving. During
- **Plantings.** Landscaping and garden areas beautify OPS facilities, but they also provide educational opportunities. Planners are putting in a lot of native and low-maintenance plantings that do not require as much water. In hard-to-maintain areas, native grasses provide structural beauty and require little care.
 - **ENERGY STAR appliances.** The OPS purchasing department is now looking at ENERGY STAR appliances for OPS buildings. The saving over the appliances' lifetime will make a big difference in energy costs.
 - **Occupancy sensors.** Many OPS classrooms and offices have occupancy sensors, which have been in OPS restrooms for more than 15 years. The sensors automatically shut off lights if no one is using the room and turn on lights if someone enters the room, saving additional dollars.
 - **Computers.** OPS has changed its procedure for shutting down computers and monitors to save energy and money. This is expected to save approximately \$150,000 annually.

Harding Memorial Scholarships Awarded to Creighton, UNO Students

OPPD awarded J.M. Harding Memorial Scholarships to Sahr Siddiqi of Creighton University and Matthew Goecke of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Both students have volunteered for various area nonprofit organizations and have their sights set on careers in their fields of study.

Siddiqi, a marketing and economics major and Spanish minor, has a history of volunteering throughout her college career. She has served organizations such as Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brother Big Sister, Lakeside Alegent Hospital, Amnesty International and more. She plans to volunteer in the Dominican Republic this summer for a service trip organized through Creighton University.

Siddiqi currently works as a marketing assistant at Khaleeq Law Firm, marketing intern at Thrasher Basement Systems, and student assistant at the Creighton University Student Employment Office. Siddiqi is the executive vice president of the American Marketing Association Creighton Chapter and has been consecutively honored on the Dean's Honor Roll for Social Responsibility.

Siddiqi is fluent in English, Urdu, Hindi and Spanish.

Goecke, a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, is a construction management major. He also has a history of volunteer work, participating in events such as 3 Days of Service and 7 Days of Service.

Goecke has been honored as an Eagle Scout and a Dean's and Chancellors List Recipient. He is an active member of the Student Consortium of Specialty Contractors, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Associated General Contractors.

Goecke, who attended Louisville High School, hopes to obtain a career that will be in the public works sector upon graduation in May of 2012.

Goecke is the son of Stephen and Janet Goecke of Louisville.



Sahr Siddiqi of Creighton University



Matthew Goecke of the University of Nebraska at Omaha

Seeing the Light

Lighting Upgrade to Yield Healthy Savings for Allied Oil & Supply



Replacing outdated business lighting systems isn't a hard sell for an individual like Frank Setlak, Vice President of Operations at Allied Oil & Supply Inc. of Omaha. He became a convert at three previous companies that saw substantial savings on energy bills when updated lighting was installed.

The fourth time around, however, is extra special. Allied Oil is likely to see its \$40,000 investment in new T8 lighting more than pay for itself in less than three years, said Frank. As a participant in OPPD's Lighting Incentive Program, Allied Oil was eligible for a rebate of \$8,623 when it replaced 320 lighting fixtures this year.

Working with Superior

Paul Shy, general manager of Superior Lighting, left, and Frank Setlak, vice president of operations at Allied Oil & Supply, stand in a garage area that has new overhead lighting.

Lighting, an OPPD Lighting Trade Ally, Allied Oil replaced old lighting in both office and warehouse areas. "This is a proven way to lower operating costs," said Frank, who "saw the light" when he was involved with lighting retrofits at businesses in York, Pa.; Lexington, Ky; and Binghamton, N.Y.

"I knew there would be a good return on investment," Frank said. "We expect to save \$765 per month and about 141,000 kilowatt-hours per year. In addition to the savings on energy, the new lighting drastically improves the work atmosphere by removing the yellow cast from the old lights."





New efficient lighting is saving Allied Oil & Supply money, and it is improving task lighting in work areas, such as the warehouse.

Allied Oil & Supply Inc., a Midwest distributor of lubricants and tires to commercial, industrial, construction, automotive and agricultural companies, is a 53-year-old, family-run business based in Omaha.

Allied Oil is one of many companies participating in OPPD's Lighting Incentive Program, now in its second year. The program offers incentives for lighting retrofits and replacements, which may also qualify customers for federal tax deductions. The retrofit at Allied Oil's Omaha facility may be just the beginning. Allied Oil has eight other branch operations in the Midwest and plans to work with local utilities on possible lighting retrofits at each location, Frank said.

The company's lighting installation was performed by Superior Lighting, 2121 S. 24th Street, an OPPD Lighting Trade Ally. Lighting Trade Allies provide no cost, no obligation lighting audits and proposals to OPPD cus-

tomers. Superior Lighting representatives also have attended training to ensure they are familiar with the Lighting Incentive Program.

The Allied project was one of 15 to 20 installations in the first quarter of 2011 for Superior Light-

ing, said Rick Swarbrick, vice president, sales.

"We've worked with 50 to 60 companies in 2010 and 2011 on the Lighting Incentive Program," he said.

"The incentive helps quite a bit." Other lighting clients include Atchley Ford and Papillion Schools.

"Three years is about average in this market to get a return on the investment," Rick said. "Atchley Ford, one of our longtime clients, is saving about \$700 a month on its energy bill. We also have done lighting retrofits at eight or 10 gyms in Papillion schools."



New lighting brightened up the front office.

New Lighting Pays Double Dividends

SAFETY
IS
EVERYONE'S
RESPONSIBILITY



James Harvey, wrapper operator, left, and Willie Rose, operations manager, stand in front of parent rolls of tissue in an area with improved lighting. These rolls are converted into individual rolls of toilet tissue.

Outlook Nebraska Inc. (ONI) will save on energy bills and also improve lighting conditions for visually impaired workers.

As a participant in OPPD's Lighting Incentive Program, ONI expects to save significantly on its monthly energy bill and also improve lighting conditions for a workforce comprised of nearly 80 percent visually impaired individuals.

ONI, an Omaha firm that supplies recycled fiber content washroom paper products to the U.S. government, is tentatively planning to invest about \$15,000 on a project to upgrade lighting fixtures. The firm installed improved lighting in a walkway and temporary fixtures in a production area that had poor task lighting, and the stark contrast between the old and new lighting is dramatic.

Although the company has not yet selected a contractor, ONI projects an annual savings of \$2,927 on its utility bill, said Patrick MacBride, chief operating officer. The expectation is that ONI would qualify for an OPPD incentive of about \$2,700.

Plans call for installation of 45 T8 fixtures in warehouse and work areas.

In addition to energy savings, the new lighting would have benefits for visually impaired workers. "The orange hues given off



Finished rolls ride a conveyor to the packaging area.

by the sodium lights we have make it difficult for low-vision people to see," said MacBride. "The new lights will have a greater range of wavelengths that are easier on the eyes of our workers. The upgrade also will improve safety and productivity on the converting floor."

At the facility, huge "parent rolls" of tissue are transformed into individual packaged rolls of toilet paper. One machine combines two strips of cardboard and glue to make extra-long tubes. The tubes are taken to a "rewinder" machine and wrapped with tissue from a parent roll. That long roll is



ONI supplies recycled fiber content washroom paper products to the government.

then taken and sliced into individual rolls, which run down a conveyor to get individually wrapped in paper and packaged in boxes for

distribution.

"We package about 8,000 to 10,000 cases each week, each containing 80 rolls," said MacBride.

The lighting upgrade will replace high-intensity discharge fixtures with high-efficiency fluorescent lamps.

"We will be redoing the entire floor," MacBride said. "We are still redesigning the floor layout to accommodate new machines that will be much faster and more efficient, and that layout will dictate where we need task lighting. Once the work is completed, we expect to have a two-year return on investment."

The expected bulb life for the new fixtures is 36,000 hours, or 5.8 years of operational time, compared with 20,000 hours or 3.2 years of operational time for the old system.

The new fixtures will increase the lumens (a measure of the amount/quantity of light) while also reducing energy consumption. The result will be a reduction in the facility's carbon footprint and an improvement in its ENERGY STAR score.

A Sustainable Service Center

OPPD's new Omaha Service Center leads the way in energy-efficiency practices.

Trading Spaces

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and OPPD have been neighbors in midtown Omaha since OPPD was founded in 1946. Throughout the years, the two organizations have built a strong relationship and have worked on many joint projects.

The fast-growing UNMC is recognized internationally as a leader in patient care, research and education, but its land-locked location has had it looking for ways to expand.

In 2008, a land-swap between the longtime neighbors was approved by both the OPPD Board of Directors and the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, making more UNMC expansions possible and providing the land and the majority of funding for construction of OPPD's new Omaha Service Center.

The new 75,000-square-foot Omaha Center is located at 5520 Lindbergh Drive, just northwest of Eppley Airfield. OPPD paid to expand the size of the new center by 12,000 square feet over the existing center and to make the building more environmentally sustainable.

On April 18, 2011, the new Omaha Center officially opened for business, with about 70 OPPD employees operating out of the facility.

Home Improvements

Construction on the center began in December of 2009. The center consists of three major components, as follows.

- **The storeroom:** an indoor and outdoor area used to store cable, wire, wood poles, transformers and more.

OPPD's Ed Thiele stands next to the solar-thermal system's water-filled tubes, installed on top of the center's storeroom. Heated by sunlight, the water in these tubes goes through a closed-loop system to provide hot water for domestic use and for the hydronic radiant heating system built into the floors of the line dock and transportation garage.



A 60-kilowatt array of solar panels covers a large portion of the line dock roof.



- **The center:** includes offices, the line dock and the tool room.
- **The transportation garage:** used for truck and vehicle storage and maintenance.

Ed Thiele, senior project engineer in Facilities Management, spearheaded the design for OPPD. Clint Langan, project engineer in Facilities Management, oversaw the day-to-day construction.

“I wanted to use what we learned from other OPPD service centers while working on this one,” said Ed, who has also worked on the Elkhorn Center, Syracuse Center and the old Omaha Center. “The new Omaha Service Center incorporates the best features of many OPPD facilities and improves on them.”

Improvements to the buildings, such as insulation, solar panels and LED yard lights, have greatly increased the energy-efficiency of the new center.

Taking the “LEED”

OPPD’s commitment to environmental stewardship is reflected in the design of the new Omaha Center. There are many energy-efficient features incorporated throughout the building.

Various sustainable features incorporated in the new center include solar photovoltaic panels, thermal solar heating, advanced lighting, operational windows, special roofing materials, energy-efficient fixtures and a number of other features, as listed on the next page.

OPPD expects the center will be certified as meeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, which set benchmarks for environmentally sustainable construction. Developed by the United States Green Building Council, these standards apply to the design, construction and operation of high-performance “green” buildings.

The benchmarks concentrate on improving energy- and water-efficiency, reducing carbon dioxide emissions, improving indoor environmental quality, and demonstrating good stewardship of resources not only when the building is in operation, but also during the construction process.

“We are confident the new service center will be LEED gold-certified,” Ed said. “We are hoping it will qualify for LEED platinum, the highest level of certification.”

Currently, there are seven LEED gold-certified buildings and just two certified platinum buildings in Nebraska. The center is to be officially certified by August.

“It is important for OPPD to operate our buildings in the most efficient manner available to us,” said Ed. “LEED certification is one way to measure our success.”



Service Center Green Features

- 60-kilowatt (kW) array of solar panels
- Solar tracker photovoltaic unit, which turns to follow the sun
- 1.2-kW vertical-axis wind turbine
- Ground-loop heat pump system
- Recycled and local construction materials
- Windows designed to take full advantage of daylight for interior lighting
- Low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints and floor coverings
- White roof to reflect heat, reduce cooling costs
- Storm-water control and retention
- Water-efficient landscaping
- Low-water-use toilet fixtures
- Reserved parking for hybrid vehicles and capability for recharging plug-in hybrids and battery-electric vehicles
- Bicycle racks
- LED yard lights

The center’s 1.2-kilowatt vertical-axis wind turbine generates both electricity and interest in this type of technology.





A Real Beauty

Electrical upgrades and lighting improvements have allowed Marianna Industries to put its best face forward.

Marianna Industries produces and packages beauty products that are shipped all over the world.

Founded in 1968 by Sam “Rudy” Cosentino, Marianna Industries started as a manufacturing company of personal care products and distributor of hair care items, such as dryers, combs, perm rods, shears and anything else a hair stylist might need. It has grown to become a major player in the beauty care industry for the development and distribution of professional salon, beauty school and spa products. Harren Equity Partners, located in Charlottesville, Va., purchased the firm in 2010.

The firm’s headquarters is located just off I-80 in Omaha at 112th & I streets, where Marianna Industries does everything from formulation to design, manufacturing, labeling, filling, warehousing and shipping. They manufacture their

own products and contract package for a variety of other companies, including Future 500 companies. Their products are sold in the U.S., Canada, South America and the United Kingdom.

With high demand for its products and services, Marianna Industries recently worked with OPPD on several projects that have greatly improved energy efficiency at its 300,000-square-foot facility, which operates three shifts around the clock.

A New Style

OPPD worked with Marianna Industries on relocating an outdated rooftop electric service for the facility, thus improving reliability for the business. The transformer-replacement project included removing three 45-year-old rooftop units, located at the center of the roof, and installing the new 2,000-KVA unit on the ground level on the north side of the plant.

Because transformers remain in service until they fail, and few transformers last longer than 50 years, Marianna Industries proactively planned to upgrade the service so a failure wouldn’t impact its operations.

“All of this work had

OPPD Account Executive Ron Mahoney, left, and Ken Kesler, Director of Operations at Marianna Industries, look at equipment at the Omaha business.



Marianna Industries has 20 filling lines, such as this one.

to be completed without business interruptions, and coordination between Marianna, our electrical contractor (Commonwealth Electric Company) and OPPD was very important," said Ken Kesler, director of operations at Marianna Industries. Kesler worked closely with OPPD Account Executive Ron Mahoney.

"Ron and I started working on this project almost a year before it became reality. We contemplated where we should locate the new transformer, as it had to work out for both parties. We agreed to locate the new unit on the north side of the plant, only if Marianna would install a hard-surface road back to the area.

"All of this outside work was going on in the dead of the winter. The shutdown was scheduled on a Saturday morning, and by late the same evening, the new power was back on without any problems," Kesler said.

Potions in Motion

In addition to being a distributor of beauty products, Marianna Industries also manufactures its own brand-name liquid products and has its own research and development staff.

Marianna also does private label and contract filling for a national and international clientele.

"We formulate, batch and fill the products on site," Kesler said. "Our facility has 20 filling lines and over 70 mixing vessels, ranging from 30 gallons to 10,000 gallons. We are capable of filling a wide range of product size and styles ranging from one-half ounce to 6,000-gallon tanker trucks."

Improved lighting has made the job easier for the many Marianna workers who keep the products rolling off the lines. Marianna took part in OPPD's Lighting Incentive Program in 2009, replacing 835 400-watt metal-halide fixtures with 308 six-lamp T8 Orion high-bay fixtures.

"The new lights gave us three times the amount of light on the floor, with approximately \$1,000 less in our monthly

electric bill," said Kesler.

"We noticed that the better lighting also has a positive effect on morale."

Marianna earned a \$20,000 rebate through the incentive program.

"OPPD always looks forward to partnering with customers on energy efficiency and reliability strategies," said Ron Mahoney. "Our goal is to help OPPD's customer-owners achieve current and future business success. The projects at Marianna are a perfect example of this."



Marianna Industries produces its own line of beauty products.

Contact Information

For more information about the products or services mentioned in this issue, please call 402-636-3536.

Economic Development.....	402-636-3726
Toll-Free Number	888-781-4415
Energy-Efficiency Programs (ECO 24/7) .	402-636-3536
Energy Reviews	402-636-3536
Heat Pump Program	
Commercial and Industrial.....	402-636-3536
Multifamily Dwellings and Condos.....	402-636-3753
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Thermal-Conductivity Testing	402-636-3536

Account Executives

Customer service is a top priority at OPPD. Our account executives specialize in different industries and are able to help large commercial and industrial customers with many energy-related issues, including added service for new or expanded facilities or new technologies. A list of account executives by business sector is available at oppd.com > Business Customers > Customer Service > Account Executives. You also may contact 402-636-3536.

Electrical Service Designers

Electrical Service Designers (ESDs) are the primary customer interface for line-extension requests, load-addition requests, equipment relocations, or other operational requirements related to commercial and residential customers. A complete list of ESDs is available at oppd.com > Business Customers > Customer Service > Electrical Service Designers.

You also may contact the office nearest you:

Elkhorn	402-552-5830
Omaha/Papillion	402-552-5330
Louisville.....	402-552-5521
Syracuse	402-552-4030



If you haven't been to www.oppd.com recently, you might want to check it out. It includes special sections for business customers and contractors & developers, as well as an Aim Green section.



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Sandbags weighing 3,000 pounds are being used to create a barrier near Nebraska City Station.

OPPD has been working hard, around the clock, to mitigate the impact of the Missouri River floodwaters on its operations.

“We have been closely monitoring the changing river conditions and taking appropriate actions company-wide,” said OPPD President Gary Gates. “We activated our Corporate Incident Command team and have taken many steps to protect our three power plants along the river, as well as other equipment. We have built earthen berms, sandbagged areas, temporarily relocated some

employees and taken many other protective actions.

“As always, OPPD remains committed to protecting the safety of customers and employees,” Gates said.

OPPD understands that many customers are affected, too. OPPD has activated and repurposed its storm blog as a flood and outage information blog. The blog is scheduled to be updated daily. The address is oppdstorminfo.blogspot.com.

On the cover:

Interesting architecture and large-scale inspirational words greet students and staff each day at Saddlebrook Elementary. Designed by Beringer Ciacio Dennell Mabrey, Saddlebrook is one of 86 Omaha Public Schools. OPPD has honored OPS for innovative use of energy at its facilities.