



For Release:

Contact: Amy Rutledge  
Manager - Corporate Communications  
Minnesota Power/ALLETE  
218-723-7400  
arutledge@mnpower.com

# ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

## **Energy Design Conference & Expo highlights green, sustainable design and construction**

Duluth, Minn.—The latest innovations in energy-efficient design and construction will be showcased at the 26th annual Energy Design Conference & Expo, Feb. 22-24 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.

Minnesota Power hosts and facilitates the event, which will feature more than 40 sessions focused on energy efficiency and sustainable design and more than 60 exhibitors. It is expected to draw more than 700 residential and commercial construction professionals, equipment and material suppliers, property managers, homeowners and others. The event offers direct access to leading experts in high performance buildings, sustainable design and development, and current energy and environmental issues. Attendees will find the latest innovations in green building materials and methods, cutting-edge conservation technologies, and national expertise in high performance home and commercial construction.

**When:** Feb. 22-24

**Where:** Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC)

**More information:** Detailed agenda with session descriptions at [www.duluthenergydesign.com](http://www.duluthenergydesign.com)

**Highlights:**

- Feb. 22 full-day preconference session “Houses that Work™,” by nationally known trainer Justin Wilson, vice president of Construction Instruction Inc. Wilson was a key player in designing and developing several of the first production net zero homes in the United States and is an expert in building solutions that affect energy, comfort and durability.
- Feb. 23 noon luncheon keynote by Marty Skoglund of the Minnesota Air National Guard. Skoglund will talk about Camp Ripley’s path to becoming a net zero energy facility. Minnesota Power is partnering with Camp Ripley to build a 10-megawatt solar installation on the National Guard base in central Minnesota. The installation is expected to be operational by November. Camp Ripley also recently completed a top-of-the-line education center that showcases energy-efficient technologies and other conservation improvements and is partnering with Minnesota Power on a 10-megawatt solar installation.

**Other topics of interest at the conference:**

- Solar energy cold-climate performance, solar-ready construction and innovations.
- Electric vehicle information.
- Emerging technologies for cold-weather residential heating.
- Cost-effective remodeling strategies to integrate energy-efficient, green technologies into the region's older homes.
- Diagnosing home performance problems to help homeowners save energy and money.
- Living off the grid—a real-life experience.
- Updates on Minnesota's new residential and commercial energy codes.
- Expanded sessions and resources for commercial energy conservation.

The 2016 Energy Design Conference is sponsored by Minnesota Power, Superior Water, Light & Power (SWL&P), Minnesota Department of Commerce, The Energy Conservatory (TEC), ComfortSystems, the Energy and Environmental Building Alliance (EEBA), Lake Superior College, and *Home Energy* magazine. Partners who joined Minnesota Power in the development, planning and implementation of the conference are the American Institute of Architects (AIA)-Minnesota, Cooperative Light & Power, Minnesota Department of Commerce, TEC, Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)-Twin Ports, Great River Energy, Ecolibrium3, ComfortSystems, and Wagner Zaun Architecture.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 143,000 customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com).

###