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First ACORE Campus Excellence Award presented to UMM

Summary: The first American Council on Renewable Energy's (ACORE) Campus Excellence Award for Outstanding Use of Renewable Energy was presented to the University of Minnesota, Morris October 3.

(October 16, 2008)-The first American Council on Renewable Energy's (ACORE) Campus Excellence Award for Outstanding Use of Renewable Energy was presented to the University of Minnesota, Morris October 3. Cheri Olf, ACORE's director of education and program manager of the Higher Education Committee, presented the award during a dedication ceremony for the biomass gasification facility, a first-of-its kind, on-site biomass plant that will provide 80 percent of the campus' heating and cooling needs.

"We are honored to receive this recognition for our work in heating and cooling our campus using local, renewable energy resources," said UMM Chancellor Jacquie Johnson. "We are grateful to ACORE for their vision and leadership in changing the way we think and act in relation to our energy needs.

UMM's Vice Chancellor for Finance and Facilities Lowell Rasmussen accepted the award on behalf of the campus. "The University of Minnesota, Morris is honored to receive this recognition from the American Council On Renewable Energy. ACORE has been a champion for the use of renewable energy and the University is proud to be associated with this organization," said Rasmussen. UMM has been an ACORE member since 2006.

Prior to the presentation of the award, Olf noted that the University's new facility "represents the highest level of commitment that our institutions of higher education can make to renewable energy," adding that ACORE's goal is to promote comparable efforts by all US colleges and universities in both teaching about and transitioning to renewable energy sources.

Watch a video about the new plant [here](#).

For more information about the biomass gasification facility, visit [biomass](#).

Photo by Judy Korn, University Relations: Cheri Olf, Lowell Rasmussen

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