

ENERGY LINE

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District Energy Celebrates 25 Years of Service

District Energy's 25th anniversary celebration on June 11 attracted 160 people to the Science Museum of Minnesota, where guests enjoyed tasty food and beverages, lively music and an entertaining program and video.




Anders Rydaker and Bill Mahlum (back, center) mingled with past and present board members at District Energy's 25th anniversary celebration.

Anders Rydaker welcomed guests and introduced several speakers, including Mayor Chris Coleman who said District Energy's renewable energy efforts are helping to make Saint Paul the most livable city in America; Jim Scannell, Senior Vice President, Travelers, who praised District Energy's reliability record and exceptional customer service; and former Mayor George Latimer who during the energy

crisis of the late 1970s, convinced Saint Paul building owners that hot water district heating was the reliable, energy efficient and affordable way to warm their buildings.

John Taylor, Bob Lowe and Barbara Lukermann were honored for their 25-plus years of dedicated service as both District Energy and Ever-Green Energy board members. Rydaker also recognized six employees who have been with the company 25 years (see page 3) and four employees who have worked with District Energy for 25 years but were not employed by the company in 1983.

Following a rousing rendition of "Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey," District Energy Board Chair George Fremder presented a surprise Creative Leadership Award to William Mahlum (see page 3).

All attendees were handed terracotta flower pots with Jalapeno Pepper seeds and soil tucked inside as they left the party. The pepper plants tie into District Energy's "Red Hot, Cool & Green™" energy services. 



Anders J. Rydaker
President

A Message from the President:

District Energy St. Paul turns 25 years old this year, and we have been celebrating this event in numerous ways, some of which are highlighted in this newsletter.

I am proud to say that in the district energy field, we are considered to be ahead of the curve in the United States in terms of using renewable energy sources and energy conservation. This fact is a tribute to the many people who have worked so hard over the years to make our company a success. It all started with the introduction of hot water technology by District Energy's first president, Hans Nyman.

We hope to tell our success story to a national audience this fall when 15,000 media members arrive in Saint Paul to attend the Republican National Convention (RNC) September 1-4. While their primary focus will be on the convention itself, we know there will be times when media personnel will be exploring the community in search of interesting local stories.

What better news than the fact that District Energy heats and cools the majority of downtown Saint Paul buildings—including the RNC headquarters—with clean, affordable, locally available, renewable energy.

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District Energy Board
George Fremder
Chairperson

Mark Rancone
Vice Chairperson

Assistant Secretaries:
Jerry Barnes
William Butz
Jim Pederson
Richard Schreiner
Donovan Schwichtenberg

District Cooling Board
George Fremder
Chairperson

Patricia Wolf
Vice Chairperson

Assistant Secretaries:
Jerry Barnes
William Butz
Jim Pederson
Mark Rancone
Richard Schreiner
Donovan Schwichtenberg

Ever-Green Energy Board
John Taylor
Chairperson

Robert Lowe, Sr.
Vice Chairperson

Barbara Lukermann
Secretary/Treasurer

Assistant Secretaries:
Donna Avery
George Fremder
Thomas Wilkolak

Directors Emeriti
Bernard St. Peter
Susan Sands

District Energy Presents Its Most Prestigious Award at the Millard Fillmore Dinner

District Energy was the 2008 presenting sponsor of the 14th Annual Millard Fillmore Dinner hosted by the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation at Saint Paul RiverCentre on May 8. Attended




Board members and special guests enjoyed a great meal, program and entertainment at the Millard Fillmore Dinner.

by 1200 people, the event celebrates the ecological, economic and historic significance of the Mississippi River and the ongoing renaissance of Saint Paul.

An event highlight was District Energy's presentation of its first and most prestigious Community Energy Visionary Award to former Mayor George Latimer (see story on next page).

In recognition of its 25th anniversary this year, District Energy purchased 25 live potted evergreen trees

to decorate the RiverCentre concourse and ballroom areas and 1200 evergreen seedlings to use as table decorations and gifts for everyone attending the annual community dinner.


Featured speakers included Don Shelby, WCCO; Rudy Maxa, public radio's Savy Traveler and public television's Rudy Maxa's World; Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman; and several Riverfront Corporation board members. 

25 Trees Donated to the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center

District Energy helped the City of Saint Paul launch a new City-run tree donation program on May 9. Called Trees Saint Paul, the new program allows Saint Paul residents, organizations, visitors and others to donate to the City's tree planting efforts guided by the newly developed "Tree Planting Master Plan."

District Energy donated 25 evergreen trees to Trees Saint Paul in recognition of its 25th anniversary and its use of wood waste as its primary fuel to heat and cool downtown Saint Paul buildings.

Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, Parks & Recreation Director Bob Bierscheid, Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation representatives and Ever-Green Energy employees participated in the program's kick-off ceremony and the actual planting of several large evergreens at the newly expanded Jimmy Lee Recreation Center & Great River Water Park.

To support District Energy's "live green" philosophy, employees hopped on a Twin City Trolley for the trip to and from the recreation center instead of driving their own cars. 



Tricia Luckow (front) and Martha Modrynski enjoyed the trolley ride to the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center.



EVER-GREEN ENERGY™

Service provider to District Energy St. Paul

Ever-Green Energy, LLC
1350 Landmark Towers
345 St. Peter Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Tel: 651.290.2812
Fax: 651.292.9709

www.ever-greenenergy.com
www.districtenergy.com



Recognition for 25-year employees...

In 1983, after the District Heating Development Company was formed, the feasibility studies finalized, customer contracts signed and the financing arranged, it was time to assemble the staff to run this innovative new company.

Six of the employees hired the first year are still onboard today: Jeff Amacher, Ron Anderson, Joe Lee, Pete Lujan, John Skeie and Trudy Sherwood. Their combined 150 years of knowledge and experience and their many contributions are sincerely valued.

Jeff Amacher was the first person to be hired in the plant and both he and John


Skeie were previously employed by Northern States Power (NSP), the utility that owned and operated the previous steam district energy system. Pete Lujan, plant superintendent, came from the Reserve Mining Power House in Silver Bay, Minnesota, and Joe Lee spent four years in the Navy before being hired. Ron Anderson, referred by a friend, applied for a general helper position right out of high school. Trudy Sherwood, who had recently returned from Texas, responded to an ad stating that District Energy was looking for an admin person to work at their construction office. The position, slated to last for just two years, continues to be a good fit for both Sherwood and District Energy.

The five plant personnel all relayed stories of their first impressions of the rundown building when they arrived. The first three months were spent hauling out old equipment to prepare for the conversion of steam to hot water. "It was a pretty rough building to start with and silverfish were known to slither across our desks at a regular pace," Lujan remembers. Amacher tells a story of working behind a temporary cardboard wall to keep the wind, snow and sleet out while waiting for boilers five and six to be installed. But by fall 1983, the plant was operating and the hot water running through the underground pipes was heating customer buildings. Since then the Kellogg Boulevard facility has been remodeled and updated several times. Just this past year

the offices on the fifth and sixth floors were revamped and to accommodate the numerous requests for presentations and tours, a state-of-the-art conference room was built.

Time has passed quickly and job descriptions have changed regularly due to the addition of district cooling and the combined heat and power (CHP) plant. Modifications and new equipment take place regularly to keep the plant progressive and energy efficient. "It has given us the opportunity to learn something new every day," Skeie comments, "and the job is never boring. Working with the same group of people has been a real plus and it is especially gratifying to see family members joining our crew."

Major highlights over the years are best summed up by Sherwood, marketing manager. "The startup of the CHP plant was huge! We found a way to turn a wood waste disposal problem into a renewable energy fuel source for our heating and cooling systems. I like working for a company that is open to innovative ways of producing energy that won't harm the environment." This comment is echoed by Anderson when he talks about the progress District Energy has had on the city of Saint Paul. "I'm proud that we use 'green energy' and that we always stay ahead of the curve."


Oh yes, more than one of these employees pointed out an added benefit of working for twenty-five years - FIVE weeks vacation! 

District Energy Honors Two Visionaries

At special events in May and June, District Energy honored the work of two visionaries who helped found the company in 1979: George Latimer and William Mahlum. Latimer (top, right) received the first Community Energy Visionary Award at the Millard Fillmore Dinner May 8 and Mahlum (bottom right) received the first Creative Leadership Award at District Energy's 25th anniversary celebration June 11.

"I am honored to present this award to George Latimer, who not only introduced the hot water district heating concept to Saint Paul building owners, but had the courage and perseverance to see the project through to successful completion," said John Taylor, Board Chair of Ever-Green Energy, at the May 8 event. "Today Saint Paul is recognized as one of the greenest, most livable cities in the nation thanks in part to George's foresight and determination to find a reliable, efficient, affordable and sustainable way to heat downtown buildings."

District Energy's 25th anniversary party was the perfect opportunity for Board Chair George Fremder to surprise Bill Mahlum with a Creative Leadership Award. "District Energy is proud to present this award to Bill Mahlum, who has served as legal counsel, consultant and advisor to the company for more than 30 years," Fremder stated. "What really impresses those of us who work with Bill is his innovative thought process. Over the years he has dealt creatively with local, state and federal government officials, lenders, investors and regulators on numerous issues impacting District Energy."

District Energy created both of these distinguished awards to recognize and honor individuals who have played a major role in the company's success. 



Companies Launch Two New Web Sites

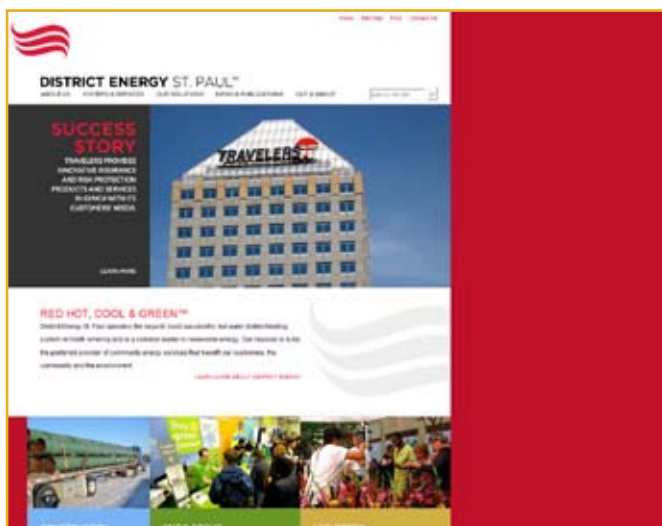
With new logos in place, District Energy and Ever-Green Energy decided it was time to redesign and re-evaluate the current content on their Web sites. Both sites received a complete makeover, making them easier to navigate and locate specific information. Launched in March, the Ever-Green Energy site is at www.ever-greenenergy.com. The District Energy site was just completed this month and is up and running at www.districtenergy.com.

Both sites provide background information about the companies and their services, showcase success stories, highlight the benefits of district energy systems and the use of renewable fuel sources, offer tips for living “green” and recognize the many ways employees involve themselves in the community.

Please take a few minutes to explore the sites and let us know what you think.

...A Message from the President

It's time people hear more about a proven technology that can increase energy security and improve climate change. We're helping Saint Paul become the most livable city in America and helping Minnesota reach its renewable energy goals.



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 Saint Paul, MN 55102

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