



# New Shelter Is Doggone Energy Efficient



The new Animal Allies Humane Society shelter near Duluth, Minn., is a bright, warm and welcoming place for homeless pets, those who care for them, and people looking to adopt a dog or cat into their families. Every kennel and animal living space is bathed in natural light and well ventilated to keep indoor air fresh and odor free. Rooms are climate controlled for maximum comfort, and there are large indoor and outdoor exercise areas, including safe, peaceful dog-walking trails. It is the perfect atmosphere for people and pets to get acquainted.

Creating a clean, comfortable and healthy environment was a top priority for Animal Allies Humane Society officials as they raised money and developed plans for the spacious new facility. For years, the organization was forced to shelter animals in a dark, overcrowded building that was woefully inadequate by today's standards for animal care. In planning the new shelter, administrators and staff envisioned a modern, high-performance facility that would meet

the needs of animals and reflect good stewardship of both financial and natural resources. That included energy conservation.

"We really pushed our design team to look at energy-efficiency measures that would lower costs and have a reasonable return-on-investment," said Jim Filby Williams, executive director, Animal Allies Humane Society. "Donors trust us to make their dollars go as far as possible for the animals we exist to serve. Energy and resource conservation are good for our organization and for the environment, which we all value."

Minnesota Power's energy consultant, Energy Management Solutions (EMS), met with electrical contractors during construction, reviewed plans and identified several energy-saving measures that qualified for PowerGrant rebates from Minnesota Power. They included high performance T-5 28-Watt fluorescent and compact fluorescent lighting, an energy-efficient air conditioning system, energy recovery units that recapture heat in the winter and cooling in the summer from

exhausted air, and NEMA premium motors.

These measures are expected to conserve 23,560 kWh in electricity per year, reduce monthly electric demand by 8.4 kW and save Animal Allies Humane Society more than \$1,800 in annual energy costs. Thanks to a PowerGrant rebate of \$1,855, they will pay for themselves in about three-and-a-half years.

"In this case, we worked within the scope of the plans that had been drafted," said Gary Olson, of EMS, noting that there might have been additional opportunities for energy-saving choices if the utility had been contacted sooner. "Contacting Minnesota Power in the design phase is the best way for businesses and organizations to maximize savings, tap into available rebates, and achieve their energy conservation goals."

A few additional measures identified by EMS, such as bi-level lighting controls and occupancy sensors, will bring Animal Allies Humane Society even more energy savings and qualify for further PowerGrant rebates when implemented.

"Minnesota Power has a fantastic program, and we are really grateful for the PowerGrant rebates," said Filby Williams. "As a nonprofit in these tough times, getting a rebate check is like receiving a large donation. It goes right back into caring for the animals and finding them permanent homes."

The new facility, which opened in March 2009, is exceeding all expectations in helping the organization achieve its mission of ensuring a lifetime of loving care for every pet in the area. Dog and cat adoptions have increased more than 100 percent to date, and there are plans to expand youth education and community outreach programs.

"Duluth has changed from a community that could not find enough homes for animals to one that can hardly keep up with the demand for pets to adopt," said Filby Williams. "We are starting to take in healthy, treatable dogs from other cities and finding them homes in the Duluth area. It is amazing."

