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Governor Vilsack Speaks at the Marshalltown Gateway Centre Groundbreaking Ceremony

Marshalltown, Iowa USA. Over 60 people attended the Groundbreaking Ceremonies that were held on September 12 which kicked-off the construction of the new sub-development of Consumers Energy, the Marshalltown Gateway Centre, located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Highways 330 and 30 in Marshall County, Iowa. The business park consists of 25 acres divided into 5 separate lots.



The Ceremony began with comments by Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager of Consumers Energy followed by Marshall County Board of Supervisors, Ron Goecke; Mark Reiseinger, State Director of Rural Development for the USDA; and concluded with words from Iowa Governor Vilsack.

According to Governor Vilsack he was excited about the Marshalltown Gateway Centre project as it was a groundbreaking which represents the future success of the State of Iowa. He also mentioned that Consumers Energy has a one-of-a-kind facility in the nation and now they have a one-of-a-kind commercial development park. In his closing comments Governor Vilsack said “This is a terrific day for the State of Iowa.”



The Marshalltown Gateway Centre will be marketed as Iowa’s most eco and tech friendly commercial development. Building off the green and sustainable remodeling efforts of Consumers Energy, the development has an anchor tenant that will set the tone for future businesses. “Requiring the use of sustainable building practices not only makes good business sense for the development, it will differentiate us from many of the other developments in cities and towns across Iowa,” states CEO/Manager Heithoff.

Businesses relocating to the Marshalltown Gateway Centre development park will share the same “green building” philosophies in regard to the environment which will be beneficial for the State of Iowa. Competitively, Iowa will now have an area where like-minded entities can look for business expansion. “Rural development can do wonderful things for your community,” stated Reiseinger.

Green buildings are sited, designed, constructed and operated to enhance the well-being of its occupants, and to minimize negative impacts on the community and the natural environment. They incorporate energy and water efficient technologies, use recycled construction materials, incorporate renewable energy technologies or purchases, and improved air quality, etc.

In the spring of 2003, Consumers Energy purchased the existing office and warehouse building located at this location and completely remodeled the building using state-of-the-art energy efficiency strategies and renewable energy technologies.

The cooperative’s headquarter’s building design includes three distinct renewable energy technologies: wind electricity generation, building integrated photovoltaic electricity generation, and eventually bio fuel cell electricity generation. “Currently, the Consumers Energy headquarters is getting the majority of its power needs from renewable energy sources,” says Heithoff.

Consumers Energy has one of the largest building integrated PV systems in the world at its headquarters in Marshall County. The photovoltaic product vendor was Iowa Thin Films Technologies (ITFT), a privately-held company, of Ames, Iowa. ITFT has developed the world's first thin film amorphous silicon transistor on a plastic substrate using a true roll-to-roll manufacturing process.

Consumers Energy is a local, member-owned energy solutions cooperative specializing in energy delivery and energy management. The cooperative serves over 5,000 members and customers throughout six counties in Central Iowa: Marshall, Story, Jasper, Polk, Tama and Hardin.

