

UWM dorms to compete for energy savings



Mark Abramson

Chris Seitz, an engineer for Uihlein Electric, talks to Becky Buffington, a resident of Cambridge Commons dorm, about the new dashboard program designed to reduce energy use at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

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Students in two dorms at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will compete to see how much energy and water they're saving with the help of new energy dashboards installed in the residence halls.

The competition kicked off Wednesday when Michael Murray, chief executive of Lucid Design Group Inc., spoke with students and faculty at Cambridge Commons, 2323 N. Cambridge Ave.

"UWM will be the first campus in Wisconsin to use the Lucid Design Group technology to create a real-time energy dashboard, a system that will enhance the competitions between our residence halls," said Scott Peak, Director of University Housing.

California-based Lucid designed the energy dashboard software product that allows building occupants to see minute-by-minute energy use of their facilities. Uihlein Electric of Brookfield is the regional distributor for the system.

"We've had some nice response from higher education facilities, and local commercial business entities looking to use Building Dashboard as a major tool to help drive down rising energy costs, as well as to add the technology into their sustainable building strategy," said Mark Holter, director of energy solutions at Uihlein.

Other universities have seen energy use drop 20% to 30% through changes inspired in part by the dashboards, according to UWM. The dashboards are part of a UWM initiative to retrofit older buildings on campus to boost energy efficiency.

- *Thomas Content*

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