

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

University of Central Missouri plans \$36M 'green' upgrade

The **University of Central Missouri** plans a two-year, \$36.1 million project to cut energy consumption and the university's carbon footprint on its Warrensburg campus while improving the learning environment.

In a Monday release, the university said it will start the project with a Friday ceremony on the Warrensburg campus. After an audit of campus facilities to identify conservation measures, the university's board approved an energy-performance contract with **Trane Inc.** of Piscataway, N.J., to oversee the renovation and upgrade of campus buildings to improve energy efficiency and improve the campus' learning and working environment, the release said.

The work will include installation of energy-efficient HVAC systems, hot water distribution systems, lighting and campus-wide building automation systems and green technologies for curriculum use and campus green awareness.

The university will finance the project through a 15-year lease-purchase through **Banc of America Public Capital Corp.**, a subsidiary of **Bank of America**, university spokesman Mike Greife said Tuesday.

The project is part of a commitment UCM President Aaron Podolefsky made when he became a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment in 2007. Podolefsky said in the release that the project "brings us all together as stewards of the resources we have."

Betty Roberts, the university's vice president for administration and finance, said in the release that state legislation in 1997 enabled state agencies to contract with energy services companies to identify and implement energy-saving measures.

"That foresight has provided us with the tools to make much-needed improvements to campus facilities at a long-term cost that is significantly less than if we financed through traditional methods," she said.