

DUNCASTER RECEIVES ENERGY STAR AWARD FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Retirement Community's Spirited Efforts By Residents & Staff Result in Significant Boost to Local Environment

BLOOMFIELD, November 15, 2007 – Most of us are no strangers to trying to save on electricity (especially these days). Only now it seems that the verve toward putting something aside for a rainy day (or a happy retirement) has partnered with “going green.” For residents at Duncaster Life Care Retirement Community in Bloomfield, one could say the proverbial light bulb has been turned on.

In a case where a more environmental consciousness can and does go hand-in-hand with the good life, residents' and staff's efforts to dramatically reduce both energy costs and pollution output earned the Duncaster community the Energy Star Small Business and Congregations Network Award from The United States Environmental Protection Agency. Duncaster was one of only eight recipients in the nation to receive the award and anticipates savings of more than \$180,000 in energy costs annually.

Significant upgrades to the community in both the 190-apartment independent living building as well as Caleb Hitchcock Health Center, Duncasters' 60-bed skilled nursing care facility, have also reduced air pollution by a whopping 187,000 pounds of CO₂. The retirement community is now producing 300 kilowatts of energy within these units. Both buildings now have automated systems, from mechanical and lighting levels to space and domestic hot water.

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Spearheaded in 2004 by Duncaster's Director of Facilities, Lou Desario, the energy saving initiative included energy audits of all the independent living apartments in order to better educate residents on efficiencies that they themselves could utilize in order to help Duncaster reduce costs. Desario called the response of resident and staff participation "positively overwhelming."

Residents exchanged more than 1000 incandescent lights for new energy-saving, compact florescent lights as part of Duncaster's Energy-saving Education Campaign. In addition, the residents' apartments and common areas were fitted with programmable thermostats to eliminate wasted energy consumption. All T-12 florescent lighting with magnetic ballasts was converted to higher efficiency T-8 lighting with electronic ballast. CL&P offered an incentive program of energy-saving lamps to be purchased at a significant reduction in cost as well.

"All of us at Duncaster want to thank the United States Environmental Protection Agency for their recognition," said Duncaster's President and CEO, Michael O'Brien. "This initiative not only created an enormous amount of excitement as the Duncaster community worked as a team, it also achieved something wonderful for the living and working environment of our residents and staff. It goes beyond just the positive impact on the bottom line." O'Brien added, "Duncaster residents are really passionate about where they live, so it came as no surprise to me that they would take this challenge and run with it."

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About Duncaster

Duncaster is Bloomfield's signature life care retirement community. This campus of 190 independent residences, assisted living and the Caleb Hitchcock Health Center is designed to provide a lifestyle of security and fulfillment. Aquatic and fitness center activities, ongoing education and a myriad of social and cultural programs energize and enrich residents' lives. For more information, see www.duncaster.org or call (860) 380-5005.