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Going green gains momentum in GF

Officials from the city, county and UND gathered at Grand Forks City Hall to start a publicity tour Wednesday to tout efforts to be "green," in saving energy and using clean energy more.

By: **Stephen J. Lee**, Grand Forks Herald

Officials from the city, county and UND gathered at Grand Forks City Hall to start a publicity tour Wednesday to tout efforts to be "green," in saving energy and using clean energy more.

Mayor Michael Brown said the city has taken key steps to be "practically green," including synchronizing traffic lights to save stopping and starting by commuters, at an estimated savings of 200,000 gallons of gasoline a year. The city also will buy two hybrid – battery and fuel powered – buses in the next year to compare with diesel-powered buses to see which works best and greener, Brown said.

The city is trying to expand and improve recycling of trash, and a plan to generate methane from the landfill.

A tour of LM Glasfiber showed how it's become a major force in making the giant blades used on electric-power-generating wind towers.

Employing about 700 people, the plant made about 2,400 blades last year, and in its first decade has made enough to provide power to 2.2 million homes, selling them in nearly every state and several nations, company officials said Wednesday.

UND officials said they have cut greenhouse gas emissions by 12 percent the past decade and a plan to cut them to zero in a few more decades.

Using a "farm" of six giant diesel generators to provide emergency and supplemental power during peak times gives UND a rate break from power providers that nets about \$250,000 in savings per year, said Randy Bohlman, technology advancement coordinator.

The tour and showcase was organized by new North Dakota Climate Solutions Partnership, a coalition of several groups, including the North Dakota Farmers Union, Ducks Unlimited, National Wildlife Federation and the Prairie Climate Stewardship Network of several church denominations.

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