
Baumhart Hall earns Energy Star status

By Sophia Bairaktaris

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Baumhart Hall is a rising star in terms of energy efficiency. The upperclassman residence hall at the Water Tower campus earned the Energy Star award for its exceptional energy efficiency.

"The Energy Star rating provides a third party endorsement that the university is committed to sustainability and energy efficiency," said Don McLauchlan, a partner in Elara Engineering, the company that worked with Loyola to construct Baumhart Hall and other university projects. "This is very important to many potential Loyola students and should positively influence future enrollment."

According to the organization's Web site, Energy Star is a part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy. Its objective is to promote practices and products that help to protect the environment and cut down costs associated with energy usage.

The Energy Star award is meant to highlight energy efficiency that goes above and beyond to preserve resources and save money.

"In addition to being recognized as a beautiful and comfortable building, students, faculty and alumni will now know that this building is also a state-of-the-art energy efficient building," McLauchlan said.

To be in the running for an Energy Star award, Loyola needed to submit various documents detailing 12 months of energy bills and building statistics such as square footage, location, occupancy and indoor air quality controls.

Further review by a licensed engineer completes the application to be considered by the EPA. The data from Baumhart Hall was then compared to the EPA database. A building must rank in the top 25 percent of applications submitted for energy efficiency to receive an Energy Star award.

Baumhart Hall's ranking is within the top 20 percent of energy efficient buildings in the country.

"The university is totally committed to the spirit of Energy Star, sustainability and energy efficiency," McLauchlan said.

Once the Energy Star is awarded, the status becomes a permanent attribute of the building: Loyola will not have to renew Baumhart's energy efficiency status. Baumhart is now listed on the Energy Star Web site, energystar.gov, along with thousands of other buildings across the country that have also earned the award.

McLauchlan said that the Klarchek Information Commons is expected to receive Energy Star status after enough historical energy data has been compiled to complete the application for 2009.

"The university would only ask each student, in keeping with the spirit of Energy Star as responsible defenders of the earth, that each student turn lights off, report leaky water fixtures and implement other common sense

energy efficient habits," he said.

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