

EcoVillage Opens with Award Celebration

In the Hawthorne neighborhood, the big news in September was that construction of EcoVillage's first "green" house was completed. The single family home—already purchased—was built to meet the latest state and federal green building certifications.

[EcoVillage](#) is a community redevelopment project on Minneapolis' North Side—a four-block area of vacant and boarded homes hit hard by foreclosures that's being reshaped into a welcoming, sustainable community. Supported by a \$500,000 grant from the [Home Depot Foundation](#), this redevelopment involves several partners: the Hawthorne Neighborhood Council, Project for Pride in Living, the City of Minneapolis, Northside Home Fund, Mississippi Watershed Management, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, Tree Trust, and the Family Housing Fund.

Then came a second wave of big news—the Hawthorne neighborhood was also being awarded \$15,000 by the national MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership, which recognizes partnerships between community organizations and police departments that have reduced crime and spurred positive development in low-income communities. [This award](#) honored [Project for Pride in Living](#) and the Minneapolis Police Department, and was presented by MetLife and Twin Cities LISC, which administers the awards. Competition for these partnership awards was stiff this year, with more than 700 applicants nationwide.

Mayor R.T. Rybak, on hand at the EcoVillage open house, credited the courage and grit of Hawthorne's residents combined with the leadership of the many partners for accomplishing "one of the most dramatic neighborhood turn-arounds in city history."



The new owners, Mayor Rybak, and a neighbor at the EcoVillage open house in North Minneapolis

LISC's Role: Since 1989 Twin Cities LISC has supported PPL with operating and capacity building grants, technical assistance, project financing, and equity investments helping to make the EcoVillage and other important projects throughout the region a reality. LISC has directly invested \$15,000 in the EcoVillage through the MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Awards Program, a partnership between the MetLife Foundation and national LISC's Community Safety Initiative.