

NEWS RELEASE



Touchmark at Coffee Creek

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EPA recognizes Touchmark at Coffee Creek for leading green-power purchase **Retirement community is largest nonpublic green-power user in Edmond**

EDMOND, Okla. — Touchmark at Coffee Creek's \$15 million expansion is complete. With the project's completion comes the distinction of being the largest nonpublic commercial purchaser of wind energy, a form of green power, in Edmond.

For the past four years, Touchmark has been purchasing alternative power from Edmond Electric. The expansion allows the retirement community to build on its commitment to the environment and its ongoing collaborative relationship with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Green Power Partnership. Today, Touchmark buys more than 2 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power annually. This is enough green power to meet 100 percent of the organization's electricity use.

This purchase also qualifies Touchmark for EPA's Green Power Leadership Club, a distinction given to organizations that have significantly exceeded EPA's minimum purchase requirements. Green Power Leadership Club members must purchase 10 times the partnership's minimum requirement.

According to the EPA, Touchmark's purchase demonstrates a proactive choice to switch from traditional sources of electricity generation and support cleaner renewable energy alternatives.

"EPA commends Touchmark at Coffee Creek for its commitment to green power," says Susan Wickwire, chief of the Energy Supply and Industry Branch at EPA. "Touchmark is further demonstrating how individual businesses can substantially reduce their carbon footprint and boost renewable energy generation in this country."

The EPA estimates that Touchmark's green power purchase is equivalent to avoiding the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of more than 300 passenger vehicles per year — or the CO₂ emissions from the electricity use of nearly 200 average American homes annually.

"We are proud to be recognized by the EPA," says Touchmark Executive Director Jamie Ham. "In today's world, with evidence of increasing pollution mounting, using alternative energy sources like wind power makes a great deal of sense."

"Green programs are environmentally friendly, and they are also good business," says Ham.

Ham emphasizes that Touchmark takes stewardship very seriously. "Touchmark team members and residents are proud of our green efforts, because they know that our commitment to quality extends even to how we purchase energy."

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Expansion adds 86 residences

A year ago this month on July 10, 2009, Touchmark held a ceremony that launched construction of the Prairieview memory care neighborhood and a three-story addition of apartments offering independent and assisted living. The building permit approved for the project was the largest that year, demonstrating the expanse of the project.

Prairieview covers almost 38,000 square feet and includes 50 private studios with full bathrooms. It is divided into four neighborhoods, each with 12 to 13 residences. The small neighborhoods provide a family atmosphere. Two neighborhoods can be opened to allow residents to stroll in a controlled setting.

Each neighborhood has its own kitchen and dining area, living room, space for activities and access to the courtyard. There are two spa baths, each supporting two neighborhoods. A beauty salon/barber shop, multipurpose room, family conference room and doctor's office are shared by the four neighborhoods.

A secure, outdoor garden provides residents contact with living plants, raised garden beds and seasonal plantings.

The Touchmark memory-care program offers specialized care in an environment specifically designed for people with Alzheimer's disease or other age-related dementia illness. The design draws on the most recent research for providing a comfortable and secure environment for people experiencing memory loss.

All residences face an inviting common area decorated to create a homelike feeling. Colors and décor provide a nurturing surrounding. Specialty memorabilia walls in each neighborhood reflect local Oklahoma sites, universities, landmarks and daily life. There is also World War II-era memorabilia, including film poster and historical photographs.

A new wing on the Grandview building adds almost 35,000 square feet of apartments for people who live independently as well as those who need some assistance with their daily activities. The 36 apartments range in size and include studio; one-bedroom; two-bedroom, one-bath and two-bedroom, two-bath designs. The architectural style and finishes are consistent with and complement the other buildings in the community.

Green power is electricity that is generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal, biogas, biomass and low-impact hydro. These resources generate electricity with a net zero increase in carbon dioxide emissions, while offering a superior environmental profile compared to traditional power generation sources. Green power purchases also support the development of new renewable energy generation sources nationwide.

The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to buy green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with purchased electricity use. The Partnership currently has more than 1,200 Partner organizations voluntarily purchasing billions of kWh of green power annually. Partners include a wide variety of leading organizations, such as Fortune 500 companies, small and medium sized businesses, local, state and federal governments and colleges and universities. For additional information, visit www.epa.gov/greenpower.

Touchmark, located in Edmond at 2801 Shortgrass Road, is part of the Coffee Creek 638-acre planned residential development, which includes a golf course, recreational centers and walking and biking trails for Coffee Creek homeowners. Touchmark at Coffee Creek offers a wide range of homes and lifestyle options. For more information, visit TouchmarkEdmond.com.