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Companies form green partnership

Day lighting, recycled materials part of AIG-Travel Guard's new home

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One of Stevens Point's largest employers is using a "green" ideology when it comes to its new headquarters in the Portage County Business Park.

AIG-Travel Guard is building its new headquarters with an eco-friendly flair, and Ellis Stone Construction Co. is assisting it with this endeavor as the general contractor for the project.

"That's just a smart thing to do from an environmental standpoint," said Jim Anderson, president of Ellis Stone. "Part of it is just dollars and cents over the life of the building."

Some green aspects of the building include using recycled building materials, taking advantage of day lighting and using motion sensors to conserve energy for lighting. Steel, drywall and cardboard products that are discarded in the construction process also will be recycled.

"There are several things," Anderson said. "One of the biggest of which is going to be the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system."

Anderson said the system is not going to be geothermal, but will be designed to consume fewer resources. Heat will be fueled by gas, and the air conditioning unit will be powered by electricity.

Anderson said AIG-Travel Guard also might use water-saving plumbing fixtures, but nothing has been determined yet.

The building will have "green" from top to bottom. Anderson said recycled materials will be used underneath the parking lot, and the roof will be eco-conscious.

The roofing system will be green by being white. The white roof will allow heat to be reflected and will keep both the building and the atmosphere cooler, Anderson said.

Ellis Stone is no newcomer to green building. Anderson said the company continues to gain experience in eco-friendly building.

He predicts more green building will be used nationwide.

"We have had elements of green buildings for actually two projects last year," he said. "This whole green aspect is something that is fairly new in the industry but it's coming on strong."

Those projects included the Porter County Bank and Fox Valley Technical College.

Anderson also cited economic factors as pros of building green.

"Even though some of the aspects of going green cost more dollars initially, they do save dollars over time through the use of less energy consumption," he said.

Construction should be completed by next summer.
