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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**EPA Recognizes Campus As Green Power Partner**

CHAMPAIGN, IL (April 20, 2015) – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Green Power Partnership has officially recognized the University of Illinois as a Green Power Partner for purchasing electricity from clean, renewable sources.

The University has always valued sustainability. In 2008, Former University Chancellor Richard Herman signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) pledge to become carbon neutral by 2050. The 2010 Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) set a goal of using renewable energy for at least 5% of campus electricity by FY15. Utilities & Energy Services purchased 20 million kWh worth of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from wind power (in addition to on-site solar power) to meet this goal. Prairieland Energy, Inc., a corporation formed and wholly owned by the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, purchased the RECs.

The University buys approximately half of the electricity it uses while producing the other half through on-site generation at Abbott Power Plant, a best-in-class cogeneration combined heat and power facility, and through four on-site solar installations. In 2014, rooftop solar panels on the Business Instructional Facility generated 39,332 kWh, which is more electricity than the typical home uses in a year. A new, 20-acre solar farm scheduled for construction in 2015 will produce more than 7 million kWh per year or 2% of the projected electrical demand for the campus.

The EPA Green Power Partnership encourages organizations to purchase green power as a way to reduce environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use. A complete list of Green Power Partners can be found at <http://epa.gov/greenpower/partners/index.htm>.

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