

INTAC Contractor List

→	General Contractor Berglund Construction Co.
→	Architect Design Organization, Inc.
→	Barricades & Flagging Security Industries, Inc. Diamond Coring Co., Inc.
→	Temporary Fence Security Industries, Inc.
→	Excavation, Utility Work, Excess Soil Removal & Dewatering Ziese and Sons Excavating, Inc.
→	Structure/Miscellaneous Steel Munster Steel Co., Inc.
→	Concrete C&S Concrete Construction, Inc.
→	Asphalt Paving Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.
→	Masonry Colvin Masonry Company
→	Drywall/Acoustic Kleckner Interior Systems, Inc.
→	Glass and Glazing Precision Wall Systems, Inc.
→	Flooring Master Tile Carpet One Floor & Home
→	Painting & Wallcovering Prism Painting Company, Inc.
→	Millwork & Finish Carp Hensley Custom Cabinetry
→	Doors, Frames & Hardware Lazzaro Companies Inc.
→	Overhead Doors Anagnos Door Company Inc.
→	Roofing E.C. Babilla, Inc.
→	Fire Protection F.E. Moran Inc. Fire Protection of Northern Illinois
→	Elevator Otis Elevator Company
→	HVAC Arctic Engineering Co., Inc.
→	Plumbing Circle "R" Mechanical, Inc.
→	Electrical Continental Electric Co., Inc.
→	Electrical Tri-Electronics, Inc.
→	Final Clean Building Performance Company, Inc.



Powering the Future

IBEW 697's new INTAC facility is more than just a headquarters and training center, it's a showcase for green power technology.

By David Wellman

There's no getting around it: the new International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697/National Electrical Contractors Association Joint Training Center in Merrillville is pretty cool. It even comes complete with a slick, vaguely military-sounding acronym: INTAC, short for "IBEW NECA Training & Apprenticeship Center." And, as befits a cutting-edge electricians' school, it's a power geek's toy box of technology, ranging from a boiler about the size of washer/dryer set that heats the entire 42,000-square-foot complex to the 21.5 kilowatts of solar panels on the roof to the wind turbine that's going up just as

soon as local officials give the nod.

A full-size wind turbine? "As big a one as they'll let us put up," grins Ray Kasmak, Business Manager for the local. And why not? After all, the primary purpose of the new facility is education, and there's no better way to learn how to work on a wind turbine or install a solar panel than by actually doing it.

The same approach is taken inside the building. Whereas the local's old center in Hammond had just a pair of classrooms and a lab, INTAC boasts seven classrooms, a lab, and a practical application lab that's several times larger than anything available before. Many of the classrooms feature hands-on stations

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Training & Administration Center

– with literally millions of dollars of equipment obtained with the aid of grants from electrical equipment manufacturers – that let students continue to learn by doing.

In part due to the economy, this is the direction in which training is moving. “We have lots of hands-on opportunities because of the competitive nature of the business,” Kasmark says. “There’s not as much time for training on the job site so there has been a big shift back to training in the classroom.”

It’s serendipitous, then, that INTAC is opening just when it’s needed, even though plans for a new hall and training center have been in the works for more than a decade. “We started a building fund in 1997,” Kasmark says, in order to replace a Hammond location originally built in 1968. In addition to being too small, the old building was no longer convenient to the local’s membership.

“All the members used to live in the Hammond area,”

...a showcase



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he notes, but over the years local 697’s membership, which now includes about 1,000 active and 400 retired members in Lake and Newton counties, has shifted east. With the Merrillville location, “we are back at the center of our membership, so we can get people to come back for night school and continuing education programs,” Kasmark says.

LEED Experience “A Big Deal”

Conversations about a new facility started in 1997 and, thanks to a member who was also a certified LEED professional, the idea of making the center a green building arose. “After all, technology and innovation is who we are and what we are about,” says Karl Krizmanic of +5 Residential Electrical Contractors (Hammond). “And we wanted experience with LEED. That was becoming a big deal and a lot of our guys didn’t have any experience with it.” It turned out to be a wise decision, he adds. “That was four years ago, and now communities are starting to adopt green standards for buildings in the community.”

Thus, INTAC became not just a training center, but also “a showcase for what we do as a trade,” Kasmark says.

Of course, LEED involves more than power-related elements like LED lighting and plug-ins for electric vehicles. The local tapped the Valparaiso office of planning, architecture and interior design firm Design Organization, Inc., to design the structure, thanks in no small part to their experience with LEED. Other green elements that were part of the construction phase or incorporated into the facility include:

- Glass-enclosed electrical and technology service rooms in the main lobby with video displays

for what we do as a trade...

- Ray Kasmark, Business Manager, IBEW Local 697



Hands-on electrical workstations in an INTAC lab.



The glass-enclosed electrical and technology service rooms.



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The history wall at INTAC honors the union's past. Pictured are members of Sweney Electric, circa 1952.

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Future plans for INTAC include a wind turbine, more solar panels and a demonstration green roof featuring native plants.

to monitor building performance, as well as an internet connection which monitors solar panel power output.

- **Coordination with the Save the Dunes Council** to preserve the native habitat, reduce stormwater quantity and improve stormwater quality. All stormwater on the site is filtered through rain garden and discharged into a pond on-site before eventually being released into the nearby Deep River.

- **Forestry stewardship management** and the harvesting of on-site hardwoods for inclusion in building construction and furnishings. White Lumber in Valparaiso milled the trees and Prickly Pear Furnishings in Hammond turned the wood into paneling and furniture.

- **A high percentage of recycled** and regional materials.

- **Healthy building features** such as increased ventilation, low VOC paints, caulks, and adhesives, as well as daylighting and views for occupants.

- Prior to construction, NIPSCO provided a **permanent power infrastructure** in place of the usual temporary setup, allowing the solar panels to be hooked up to provide power for construction.

- IBEW 697 worked with the town of Merrillville to **reduce parking spaces to the minimum**

necessary, which decreased the amount of asphalt and in turn decreased the amount of runoff from the facility.

- INTAC features both a white roof that reflects sunlight to counteract the “heat island” effect and has space set aside for a demonstration “green roof” featuring palletized native plants that require minimal water. The green roof will be installed in the spring.

Directed by Berglund Construction

(Chesterton), work got underway on INTAC in September 2009, with steel going up in February 2010 and the union taking occupancy on December 17th of last year. “Berglund was really good,” Kasmark says. A focus on communication and joint planning led to a smooth job with few change orders, resulting in a job that came in seven percent under budget – which is a decent chunk of change on a \$10 million project.

In addition to the turbine, plans call for

the number of solar panels to be doubled, increasing power capacity to 43 kilowatts.

Initially, Kasmark says the local was hoping for LEED Silver certification for the facility. However, he now believes they have a shot at LEED Gold. An official verdict is expected from the arbiters of LEED, the U.S. Green Building Council, in July.



For more about INTAC visit www.buildingindiananews.com.



Power from INTAC's solar panels was used during construction.



Wood paneling made from hardwood harvested at the site.



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